FOREST-WIDE COLLABORATIVE TRAILS ASSESSMENT

CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST

OCONEE RANGER DISTRICT

JANUARY - MAY, 2012
CONTRACT #: AG-435H-S-12-0001

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APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS

OCONEE RANGER DISTRICT

In the Oconee Ranger District, 7 individual trails and approximately 5.5 miles were assessed. This represents 17% of the total non-motorized trail in the District (33.5 miles). Specifically, trails assessed as part of this project include:

Oconee Ranger District- Trails Assessed

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL NUMBER	TRAIL MILEAGE	MILEAGE ASSESSED	DESIGNED USE	TRAIL CLASS
Boarding House	128	0.2	0.2	Pedestrian	3
Burgess Mountain	120	0.3	0.3	Pedestrian	3
Double Bridges	49	0.4	0.4	Pedestrian	4
Hitchiti	183	2.4	2.4	Pedestrian	3
Hitchiti Loop	184	0.9	0.9	Pedestrian	3
Indian Mounds	102	0.9	0.9	Pedestrian	3
Scull Shoals	24	0.8	0.8	Pedestrian	3

Education/Outreach Activities

In addition to the inventory and assessment work conducted on the district, the following contract activities took place:

Ocmulgee Bluffs Trail Planning and Design Workshop

Woody Keen led an equestrian trail planning and design workshop on the Ocmulgee Bluffs horse trail system. More than 30 attendees, including Oconee Ranger District staff, met at the Ocmulgee Bluffs trailhead.

The focus of this equestrian workshop was different from the Chattooga River Ranger District activities, with more of an emphasis on trail planning and design/layout of sustainable trails for heavy horse use. Morning activities included a trail planning exercise and following an authentic chuckwagon lunch. Afternoon activities shifted to trail design with the goal of producing a usable flag line of proposed contour trail to replace a fall line section of trail dropping off a steep ridge.

Physical Setting/Sustainability

All of the trails included in this assessment are routed in "lay of the land" manner. While simply blazing trees along a socially used path is expedient from a design and construction standpoint, these unconstructed trails are rarely attain long-term physical sustainability. The "hiked in" trails compact soil create a depression in the natural landscape. This linear depression holds moisture where trail grades are grades are excessively flat and erode quickly when trails are routed on the fall line. Management of water off of the trail is nearly impossible.

Corridor management, including the clearing of downed trees, the removal of hazard trees, and the removal of encroaching vegetation appear sporadically implemented, often not attaining the annual treatment levels dictated by Forest Service Trail Handbook Operations and Maintenance Considerations for Class 3 and 4 trails. Water management structures are non-existent. Many trails have multiple, deteriorated bridges crossing small streams and wet areas. Few of these bridges meet common USFS engineering standards and have risk management facets that should be dealt with expediently. Many of the trails continue to have multiple unmanaged wet area crossings, minimizing the overall effectiveness of sedimentation control.

Topography for sustainable shared-use trails is abundant in the District and in the vicinity of the assessed trails. Trails developed in a system, with multiple options and a diversity of potential experiences, is the most expedient way to meet the recreational demands where few other opportunities are present. However, shared-use trail systems require an acute understanding of sustainable trail design and construction to minimize visitor- and water-created impacts while minimizing potential conflicts.

Opportunities for improving the physical sustainability of Oconee Ranger District trails abound in the potential for:

1. **Trail relocation to sidehill locations at moderate, rolling grades that minimize aquatic and riparian impacts**

Social Setting/Sustainability

The quality of trail experiences Oconee District's assessed trails is compromised due to the low level of maintenance, low apparent interest in the trail's destination, lack of recreation options. Unmaintained corridors and failing infrastructure do not help visitors forge an emotional connection with the forest resources nearly as well as maintained, rolling contour, trails that also minimize resource impacts. In the absence of better alternatives, managers and trail users accept this condition. However the objective shortcomings of the trail system from a resource impact and experiential quality is quite clear.

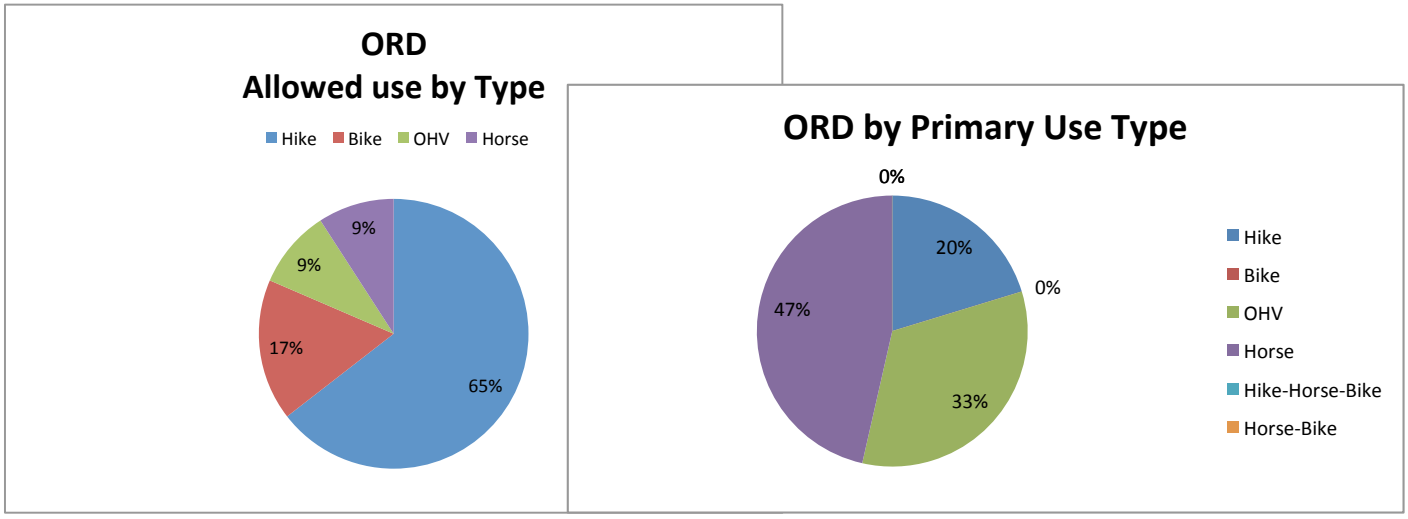
Forest recreation goals are quite diverse and can include exercise, serenity, resource appreciation, socializing with friends and family, etc. Use conflict is a product of goal interference. Conflicts typically result from overcrowding combined with negative trail conditions. Flaws in trail design/construction result in situations where startling, collision, or interruptions are possible. Shortcutting and social spur trails develop where trail users are not expediently routed in desirable ways or where trail conditions are difficult to traverse. This unintended development can cause resource damage and harm to the aesthetic and functional elements of the trail's setting. Insufficient public access and visitor management at trailheads, camping areas, waterfalls, and fishing streams cause undo vegetation trampling and subsequent erosion.

While overcrowding is not a concern at this time on the Oconee's assessed trails, the diversity of potential experiences does not meet the breadth of goals that visitors seek. The short destination trails are generally not constructed or maintained to a Class 4 level and the lack of adequate, accessible trail corridor is resulting in resource damage due to off-trail hiking and sedimentation associated with trails that are routed rather than constructed and infrastructure/maintenance that presents significant hazards.

Opportunities for improvement in this situation, outside of more sustainable trail design, construction, and maintenance include:

1. **Enhanced shared-use trail system development near Developed Recreation Areas or Forest lands in close proximity to larger regional highways that provide easy access to population centers**

2. **Partnerships with local counties/municipalities to improve the sustainability and visitor access to destinations such as historic sites, fishing streams, and interesting forest ecosystems.**



Managerial Setting/Sustainability

Oconee Ranger District trails assessed in this project show no signs of maintenance. Forest Service management of the trail corridor lacks the necessary staff allotment to achieve the required maintenance on an annual basis. As with the social sustainability, the public has generally accepted the quality of the managerial setting without a better example for comparison.

Trail management is a human resource-intensive process, especially with mounting maintenance backlogs of unsustainable trails. A remedy to this situation is possible, but is dependent on significant and strategic public involvement. First, more volunteers need to become involved in managing the trails that provide so many societal benefits. This compliments scarce Forest Service resources and leads to a broader understanding and partnerships in sustainable land management. Second, citizens and smaller government entities must effectively lobby for the importance of sustainable recreation and demonstrate a commitment to partnership with resources and advocacy that improve the situation. In both situations, collaborative partnerships are the only means to short- and long-term improvements in recreational and resource quality.

With population generally increasing toward the Oconee, it is likely that the demand for trails on the District will increase in future years. This will put additional strain on existing Forest Service resources and the its tenuously managed system of trails. Better managed trails will be a portion of the solution, but there will be the need for additional trails. The need will be greatest near existing Developed Recreation Areas and other easily accessible portions of the Forest. This demand can be met with well-designed shared-use trail systems. Innovative management partnerships are possible and desirable in these locations and can generate multiple benefits to all parties.

Opportunities for improved managerial sustainability are immediate with:

1. **Formalized, strategic trail maintenance partnerships with parties interested in the improvement and involved in the use of specific trails or trail systems.**

2. **Increased stakeholder outreach to non-federal entities to solicit support for and explain the economic value and health and well-being benefits of enhanced and robust trail systems.**

TRAIL: BOARDING HOUSE

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Boarding House
Trail Number	128
Miles Assessed	0.15
Beg. Location	FDR 1231
End Location	Boarding House
Trail Class	3- Developed/Improved
Designed Use	Hike

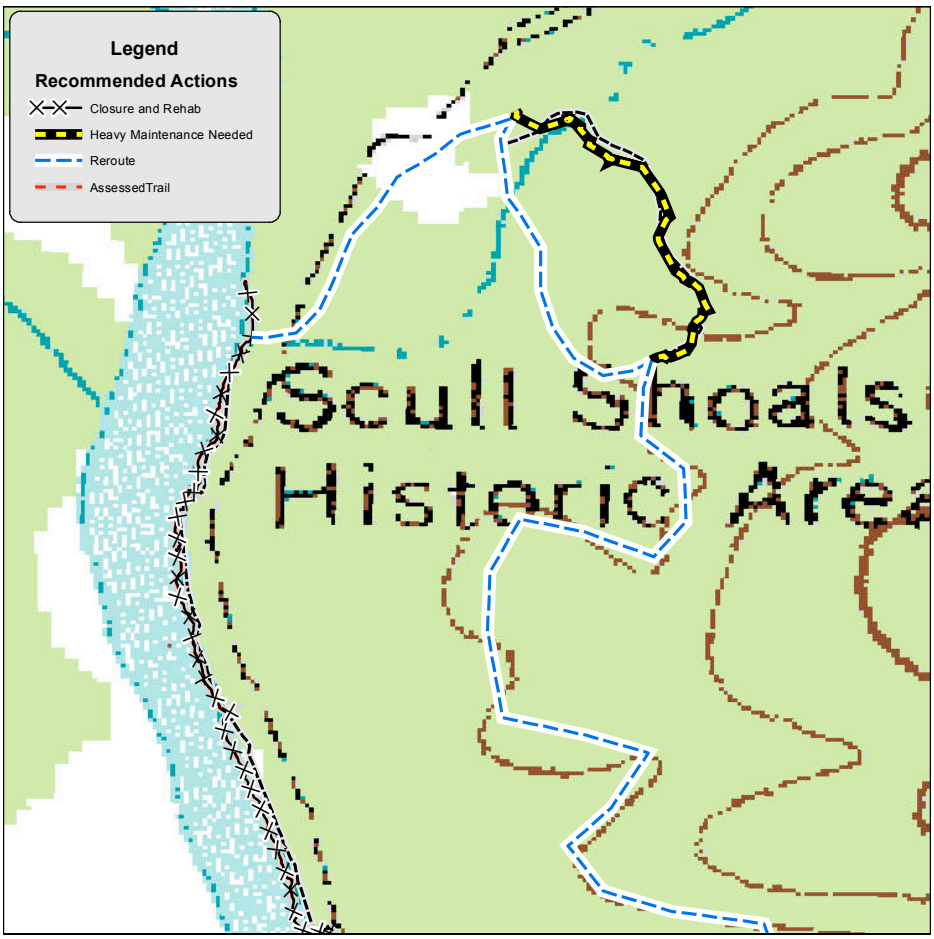
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (")	48 (from TMO) 18-36	24-36	Currently walked-in tread at ~24" width
Structure Width (")	18 min.	36 min.	48" Bridges have failed
Tread Surface	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	Native, improved for minor rough	
Protrusions/Obstacles (")	<3/10	<3/8	<3/6 currently
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 3-12/25/10-20	2-10/15/5-20	Generally low gradient with short, steep pitches
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	5-10/15	3-7/10	
Clearing Height/Width (')	10/4 (from TMO) 7-8/3-5	8-10/4-6	
Turn Radius (')	4 (from TMO) 3-6	4-6	

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail not designed or constructed- a socially walked-in trail to the Boarding House. Social trails continue from trail terminus.
Social Setting	Hiking-only trail with low level of use. Boarding House is listed as a heritage resource, but the protective fence has failed and there is no interpretation of the resource.
Managerial Setting	Bridges have failed, fence around Boarding House has failed, and the trail should be relocated or turnpiked.

Priorities	High- Address bridge and fencing issues Medium- Relocate entire trail and create an interpretive loop off the Scull Shoals trail.

Representative Photographs:

Top Left and Right: Trailhead kiosk with some interpretive information and picnic area
Bottom Left: Bridge at beginning of trail.
Bottom Right: Undefined trail corridor with signage obstructed by encroaching vegetation

Clockwise from Top Left: Trail is barely distinguishable beyond the initial failed bridge. A second failing bridge. Boarding House foundation ruins and fencing in disrepair. A short, steep, eroding portion of unconstructed trail.

TRAIL: BURGESS MOUNTAIN

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Burgess
Trail Number	120
Miles Assessed	0.25
Beg. Location	Burgess Road
End Location	Burgess Mountaintop
Trail Class	3- Developed/Improved
Designed Use	Hike

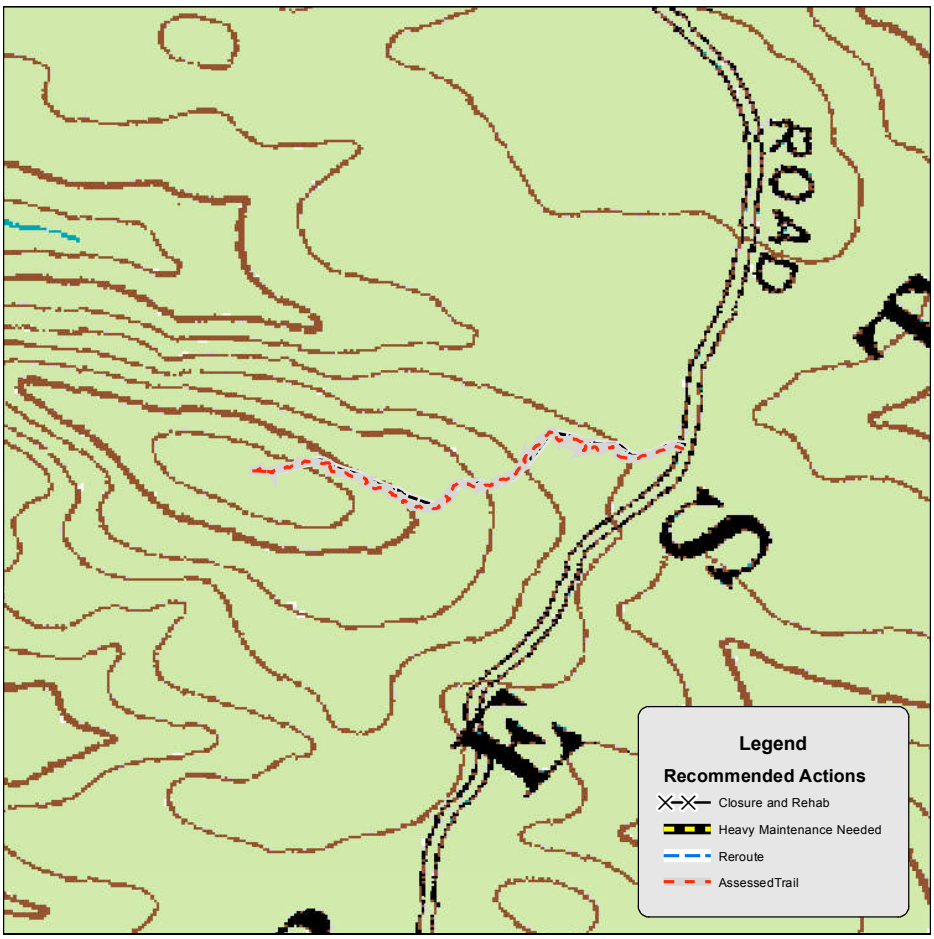
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	Designed use issues on TMO re Pack and Saddle use

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (")	48 (from TMO) 18-36	24-36	Currently tread width ranges from 24-60"
Structure Width (")	18 min.	18 min.	
Tread Surface	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	
Protrusions/Obstacles (")	<3/10	<3/10	Low, intermittently rough
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 max (TMO) 3-12/25/10-20	3-12/20/10-20	
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	5-10/15	5-10/15	
Clearing Height/Width (')	10/4 (from TMO) 7-8/3-5	7-8/3-5	
Turn Radius (')	4 (from TMO) 3-6		

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	A very short trail to a knob, originating off Burgess Road. The destination is not very powerful- no interesting natural feature or view. Trail is constructed for a portion and routed on a fire break for another portion. The area is well-suited to the development of quality trails.
Social Setting	Hiking only trail with little evidence of use. Fire break co-location detracts from an intimate experience.
Managerial Setting	No maintenance evident.

Priorities	Medium- Consider area for the development of a trail system Medium- Consider removal from inventory

Representative Photographs:

Above: Entrance to trail and typical width near the beginning of the trail

Above: Lack of defined trail corridor, save for intermittent blazes

TRAIL: DOUBLE BRIDGES

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Double Bridges
Trail Number	49
Miles Assessed	0.37
Beg. Location	End of Hitchiti Road
End Location	End of Hitchiti Road
Trail Class	4- Highly Developed
Designed Use	Hike

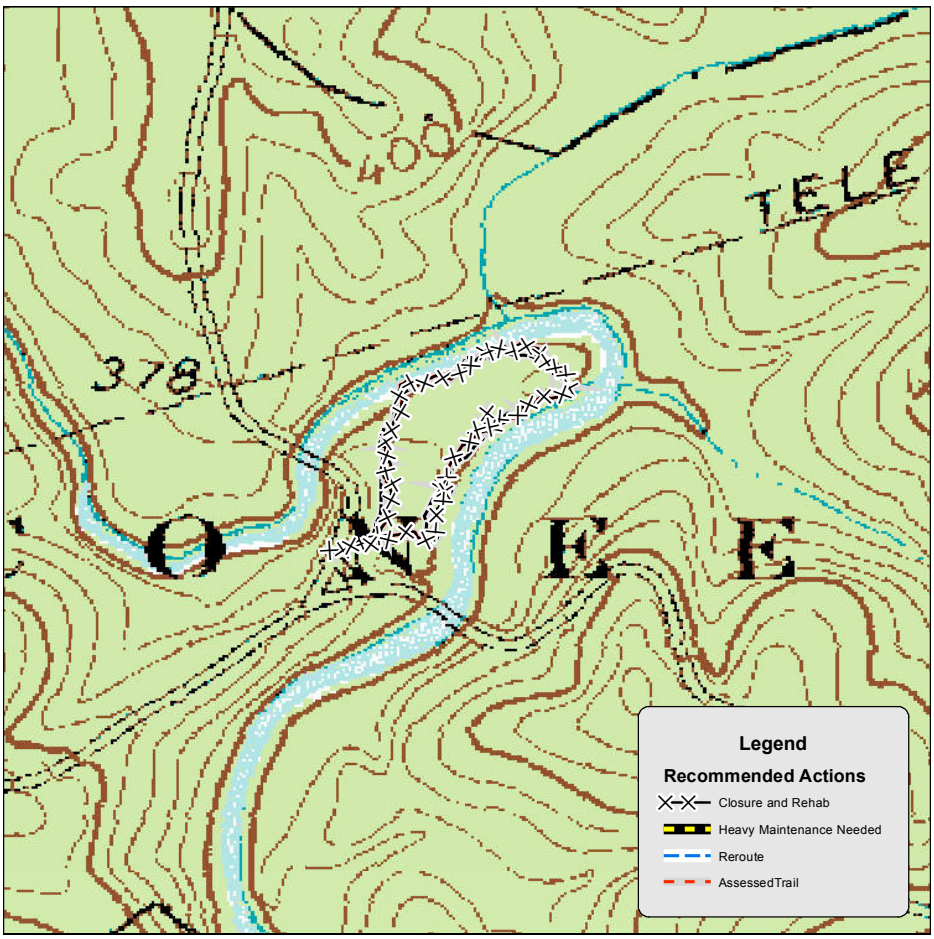
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	TMO issues re managed use of bikes

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (”)	24 (from TMO) 24-60	6-18	Tread non-existent in many places and mostly exists as blazes on trees
Structure Width (”)	36 min.	18 min.	
Tread Surface	Native w/improved sections for minor roughness	Native, limited grading	
Protrusions/Obstacles (”)	<3/8	<3/8	
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 2-10/15/5-20	2-10/15/5-20	Flat, not graded
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	3-7/10	3-7/10	Flat, not graded
Clearing Height/Width (’)	8/4 (from TMO) 8-10/4-6	6-7/2-4	Corridor unmaintained
Turn Radius (’)	4 (TMO) 4-8	2-3	

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail is in a roaded area near to vehicle bridges over the creek. Route seems to have developed socially to provide fishing access or relaxation next to creek. Trail is not constructed in any way.
Social Setting	Hiking trail with very little evidence of use.
Managerial Setting	No evidence of maintenance and route consists mainly of blazes on trees. A very low level of development for a TC 4 trail.

Priorities	Medium- Consider removing trail from inventory or downgrading to TC 2.

Representative Photographs:

Above Left: Signage at beginning of trail

Others: Indiscernible trail corridor with no sign of previous corridor clearing. Trail defined by random blazes

TRAIL: HITCHITI

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Hitchiti
Trail Number	183
Miles Assessed	2.39
Beg. Location	TH at FDR 908/Juliet Rd.
End Location	End of FDR 908 @ River
Trail Class	4- Highly Developed
Designed Use	Hike

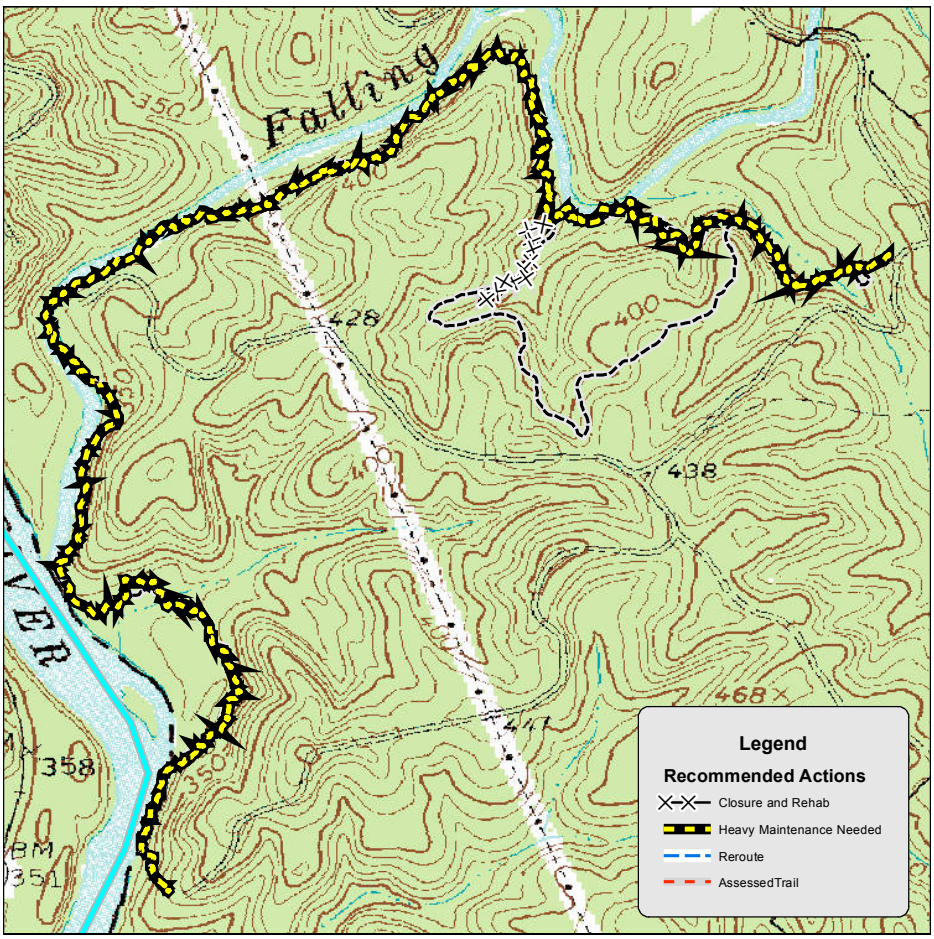
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	TMO issues re. bikes as managed use

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (")	24 (from TMO) 24-60	18-36	Currently 18-24"
Structure Width (")	36 min.	18 min.	Four bridges, 24-36" in various states of disrepair
Tread Surface	Native, improved for minor rough	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	
Protrusions/Obstacles (")	<3/8	<3/10	Low rugosity for entire trail
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 2-10/15/5-20	2-10/15/5-20	
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	3-7/10	3-7/10	
Clearing Height/Width (')	8/4 (from TMO) 8-10	7-8/3-5	
Turn Radius (')	4 (from TMO)	3-6	

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail is accessed from a nicely developed trailhead in are area managed as an Experimental Forest and Natural Area. A very low level of development, save for a number of bridges, benches, etc. that show evidence of Boy Scout projects. Many areas, especially after FDR intersection, with unnecessarily wet trail location where substantially better options are available
Social Setting	Hiking-only, interpretive trail. Interpretive signs are only numbers and depend upon a brochure for environmental education. Low to moderate use on the trail portion prior to road intersection and very low use following the intersection.
Managerial Setting	Little evidence of maintenance. 3 bridges prior to intersection are all in need of repair and have risk management issues. The longest (>20') bridge demonstrates no typical FS engineering. No corridor clearing or hazard tree maintenance work completed in some time.

Priorities	High- Inspect/repair bridges High- Clear corridor and handle hazard trees Medium- Downgrade to TC 3 Medium- Improve interpretive opportunity with Medium- Consider removing second portion of trail, east of intersection, from trail inventory

Representative Photographs:

Above Left and Right: Large parking area and good signage create a pleasant entry to this small trail system

Below Left: Signage indicating presence of endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker

Below Right: Rock outcrops increase interest in topography

Top Left and Right: A number of large trees blocking corridor and walked-in condition of trail

Middle: A number of simple bridges exist, most in need of inspection and repair

Bottom: Much of the trail lies in the floodplain, with river edge portions showing signs of erosion to creek

TRAIL: HITCHITI LOOP

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Hitchiti
Trail Number	184
Miles Assessed	0.86
Beg. Location	FDT 183
End Location	FDT 183
Trail Class	4- Highly Developed
Designed Use	Hike

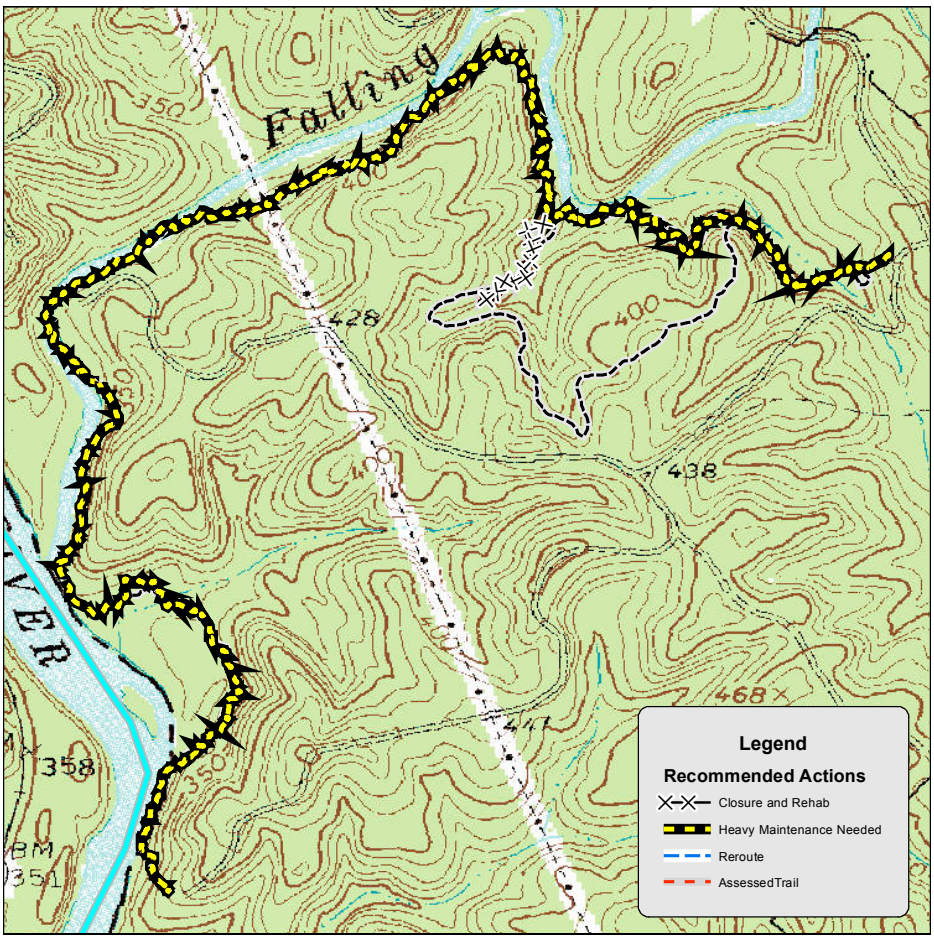
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	TMO issues re. bikes as managed use

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (")	24 (from TMO) 24-60	6-18	Trail not constructed and virtually non-existent except for sporadic blazes
Structure Width (")	36 min.	18 min.	One 36"-wide bridge
Tread Surface	Native, improved for minor rough	Native, limited grading	
Protrusions/Obstacles (")	<3/8	<3/8	Low rugosity on entire trail
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 2-10/15/5-20	2-10/15/5-20	
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	3-7/10	3-7/10	
Clearing Height/Width (')	8/4 (from TMO) 8-10/4-6	6-7/2-4	
Turn Radius (')	4 (from TMO) 4-8	2-3	

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail is located in an experimental forest and Hitchiti Natural Area. Intended to be a loop off the Hitchiti trail. Not constructed in any manner and only discernible as a trail by sporadic blazes and the presence of a bridge.
Social Setting	Hiking only trail with low evidence of use.
Managerial Setting	No evidence of maintenance and a very informal experience for a TC 4 trail.

Priorities	High- Consider removing from inventory or downgrading to TC 2 and removing bridge.

Representative Photographs:

Above Left: Signage at beginning of trail

Above Right: Simple bridge over ditch

Others: Indiscernible trail corridor with no sign of previous corridor clearing. Trail defined by random blazes

TRAIL: INDIAN MOUNDS

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Indian Mound
Trail Number	102
Miles Assessed	0.79
Beg. Location	FDR 1231A
End Location	Indian Mounds
Trail Class	3- Developed/Improved
Designed Use	Hike

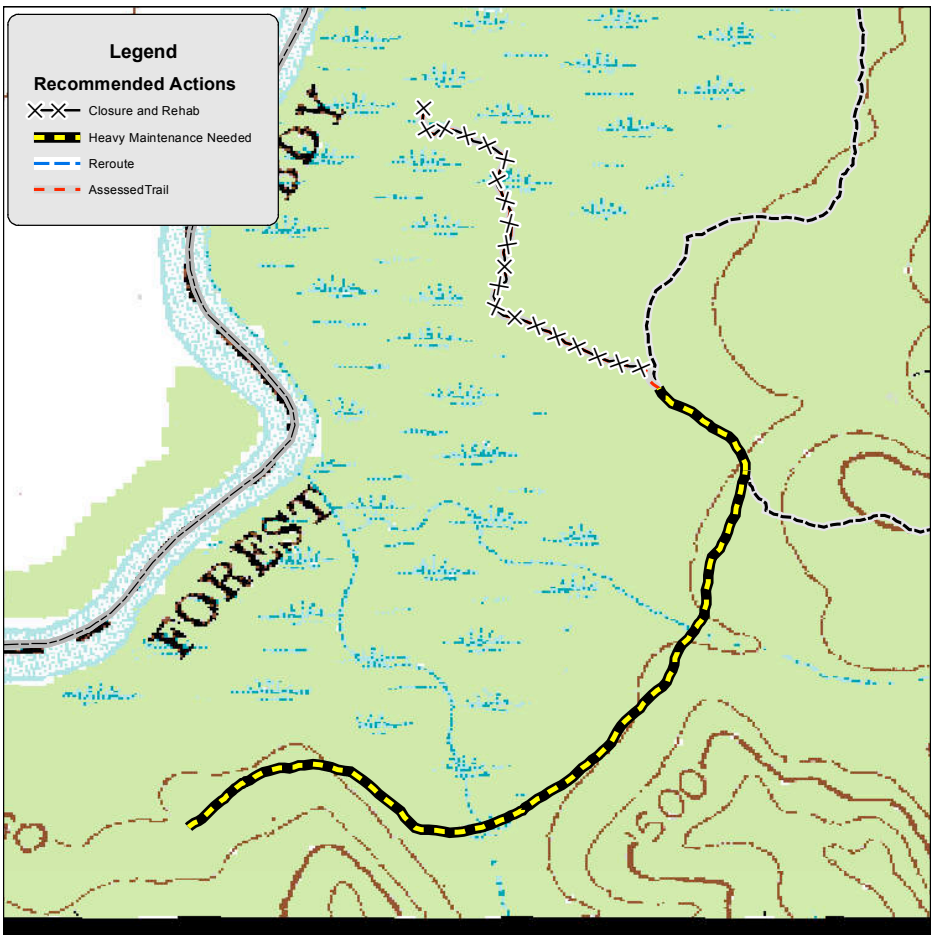
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (”)	48 (from TMO) 18-36	18-36	Currently 12-18” width
Structure Width (”)	18 min.	18 min.	
Tread Surface	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	
Protrusions/Obstacles (”)	<3/10	<3/10	
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 3-12/25/10-20	3-12/25/10-20	Generally very low trail gradient
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	5-10/15	5-10/15	
Clearing Height/Width (’)	10/4 (from TMO) 7-8/3-5	7-8/3-5	Corridor closes down after junction with Falling Branch Trail
Turn Radius (’)	4 (from TMO) 3-6	3-6	

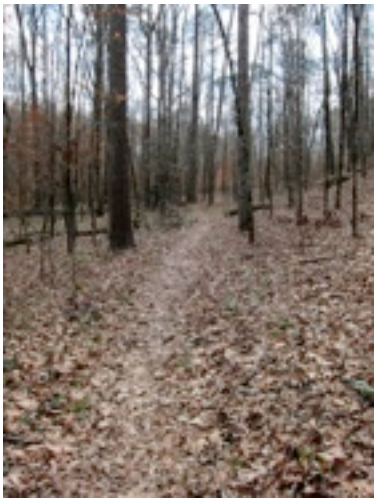
Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail located on flat bottomland area with poorly draining soils. Two stream crossings are unimproved.
Social Setting	Hiking-only trail. Low evidence of use. Illicit equestrian use from 1221 to Falling Branch Trail. Heritage resource present in Indian Mounds
Managerial Setting	Other than corridor clearing, no signs of maintenance. Corridor clearing ends at Falling Branch Trail, and trail is overgrown and difficult to follow to Indian Mounds.

Priorities	Medium- Consider closure/rehabilitation of trail from Falling Branch Trail to Indian Mounds as low use and little maintenance currently evident. Medium- If use is or becomes higher, then trail turnpiking, bridge construction and improved signage (including interpretive) will be necessary. Consider improving for equestrian access, relocation to sidehill and/or surfacing of trail and armoring of stream crossings. Trail provides connectivity b/w equine trails and road corridor for additional loop.

Representative Photographs:



Left to Right: A sign along the trail alerts users to the cultural resources ahead. The trail is minimally developed. Crossings lack development and pose threats to natural resources, while detracting from recreational experience.

Left to Right: Another unimproved water crossing. Blazes at Falling Branch Trail intersection.From the junction with Falling Branch Trail to the indian mounds, the trail receives very little use and is difficult to follow.

TRAIL: SCULL SHOALS

Ranger District	Oconee
System Name	Scull Shoals River
Trail Number	24
Miles Assessed	0.77
Beg. Location	Scull Shoals Historic Site
End Location	Oconee River Rec. Area
Trail Class	3- Developed Improved
Designed Use	Hike

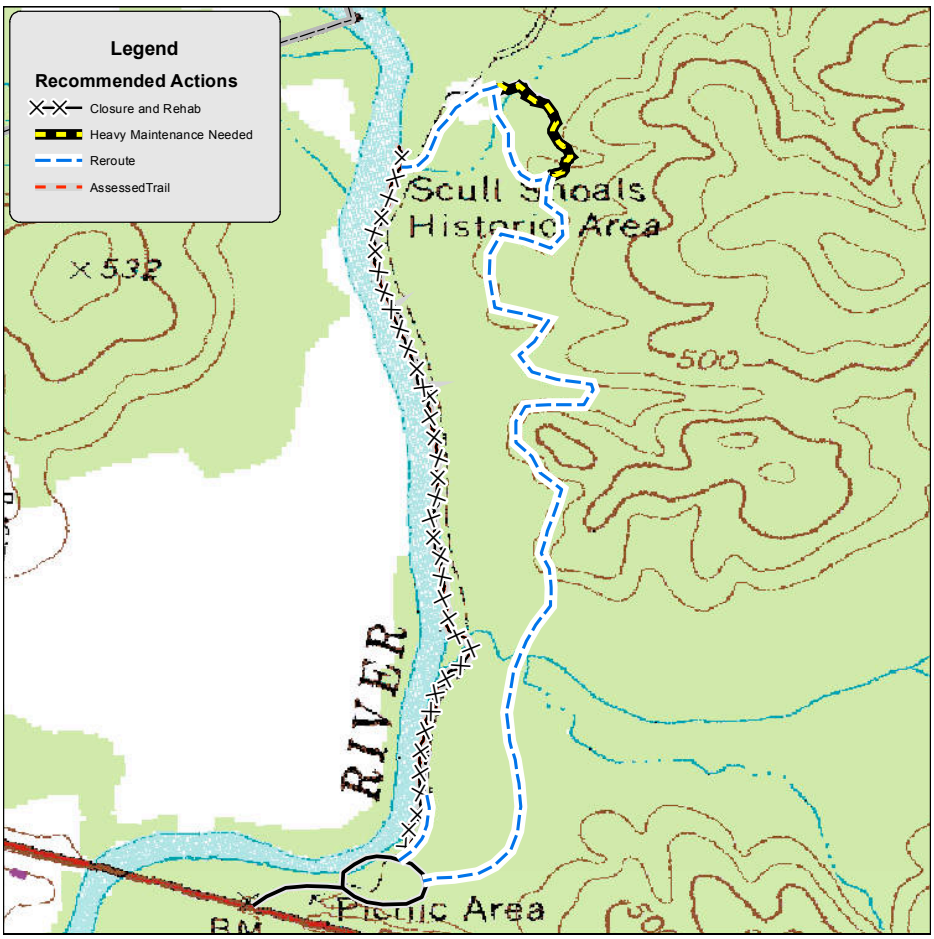
Travel Management Strategies:

Strategy	Hike	Bike	Horse	OHV	Comments
Managed Use	Y	N	N	N	

Design Parameter Recommendations:

Design Parameter	USFS DP Value	Rec DP Value	Exceptions/Comments
Tread Width (")	24 (from TMO) 18-36	24-60	12-18" width currently
Structure Width (")	18 min.	36 min.	Multiple 36-60" bridges in failing condition, with one ~40' in length
Tread Surface	Native, w/borrow for stabilization	Native, w/improve for minor rough	
Protrusions/Obstacles (")	<3/10	<3/8	<3/6 currently
Target Grade/Max/Density (%)	3-12/20 (TMO) 3-12/25/10-20	2-10/15/5-20	Very low gradient trail
Target Cross Slope/Max (%)	5-10/15	3-7/10	
Clearing Height/Width (')	8/4 (from TMO) 7-8/3-5	8-10/4-6	Currently 5-6/2-3
Turn Radius (')	4 (from TMO) 4-6	4-8	

Recommendations



Setting	Comments
Physical Setting	Trail originating from boat ramp/picnic area. Not designed, but socially walked-in on soft soils with poor drainage. Trail is minimally developed, save for numerous bridges that are in poor or failed condition. Connects on the north end to Scull Shoals ruins.
Social Setting	Hiking-only trail seemingly used mainly for fishing access. Heritage resources present at the Scull Shoals Historic Area, but not signed or interpreted.
Managerial Setting	Social trails around corridor-blocking trees, uncleared vegetation in corridor, and up main side drainage. Some corridor clearing at south end, but few maintenance attempts evident. Multiple failed bridges, with one ~ 40' in length. Trail signed as "closed" on south end, but not on north end.

Priorities	High- Remove hazardous bridges High- Sign as "closed" on north end Medium- If use is moderate, consider TC 4-managed trail. This would include trail relocation, rebuilt bridges, turnpiking, interpretive signage, side trail to river and improved picnic area

Representative Photographs:

Top Row: The parking area at the boat ramp end of Scull Shoals trail. Numerous failed or failing bridges along the trail.

Middle Row: The trail is posted closed at one end, but not the other. Portions of the trail are located atop steep and eroding banks of the Oconee River.

Bottom: Foundation ruins at Scull Shoals.

APPENDIX A: SURVEY RESULTS

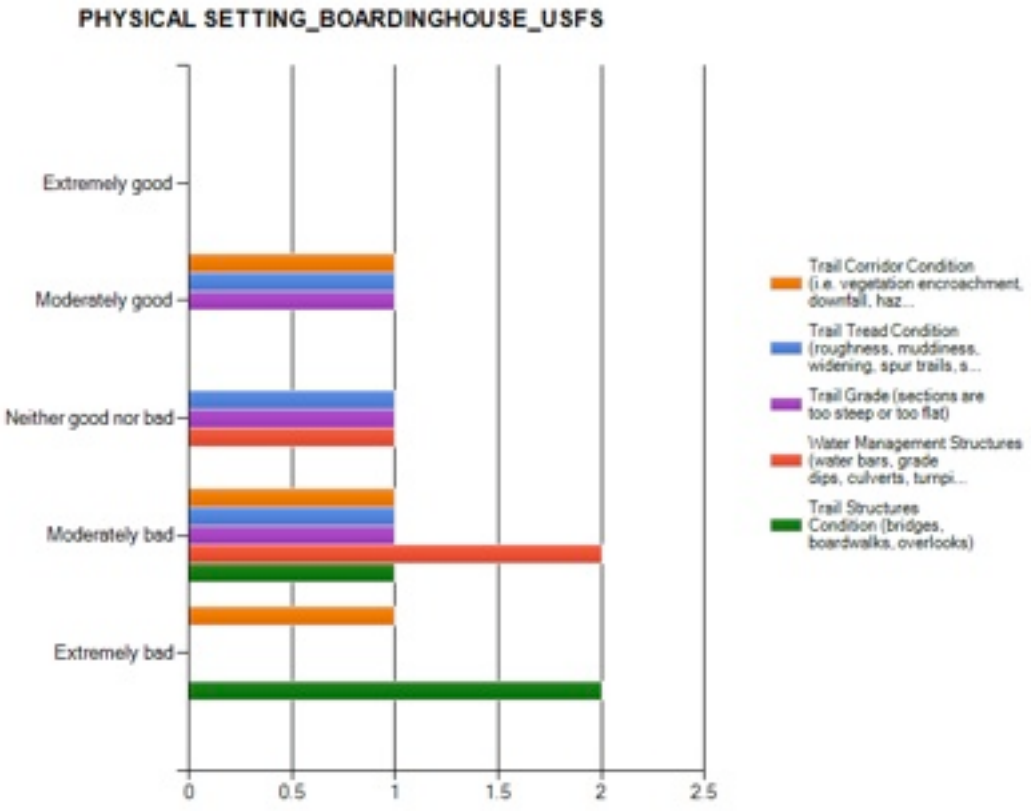
TRAIL: BOARDING HOUSE

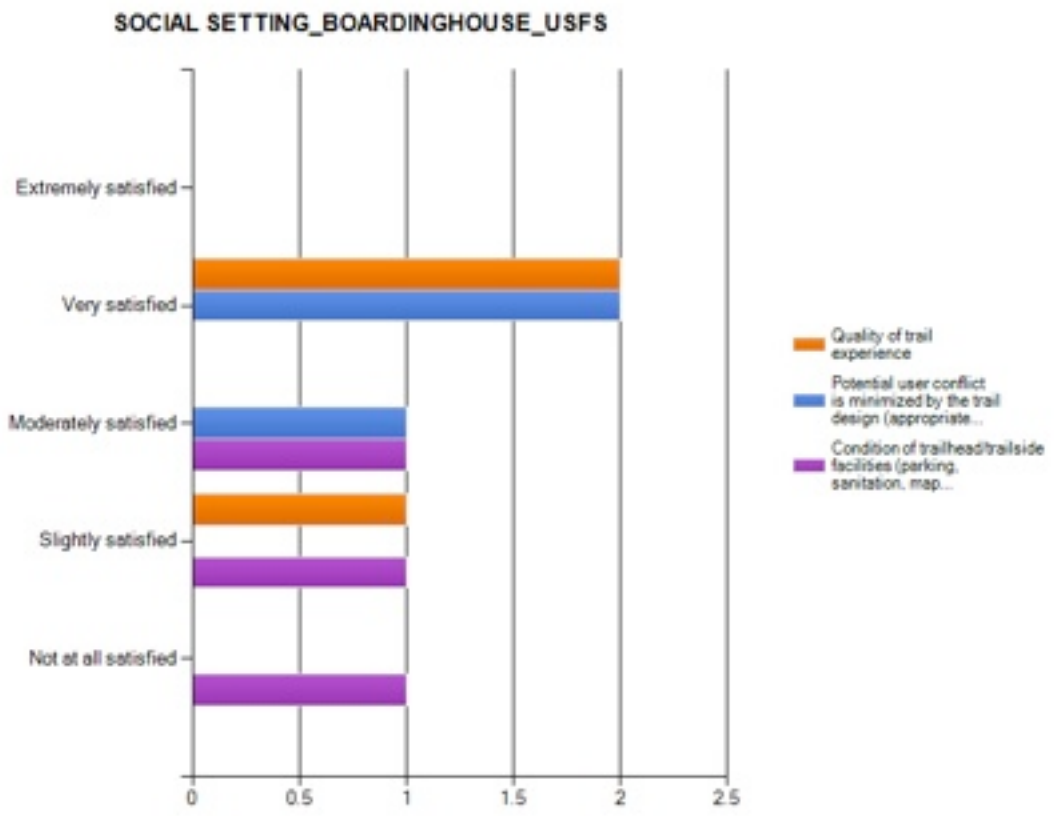
Survey Results: Forest Service

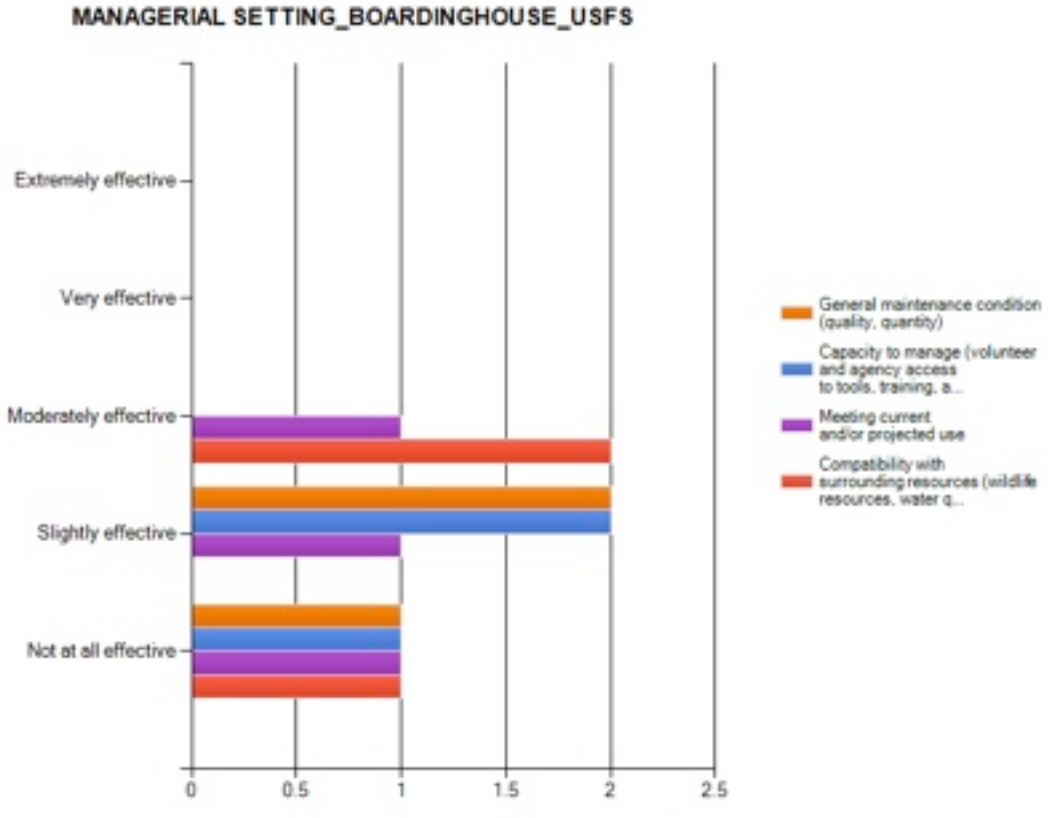
History: Built Pre 1980's

Maintenance Providers: USFS

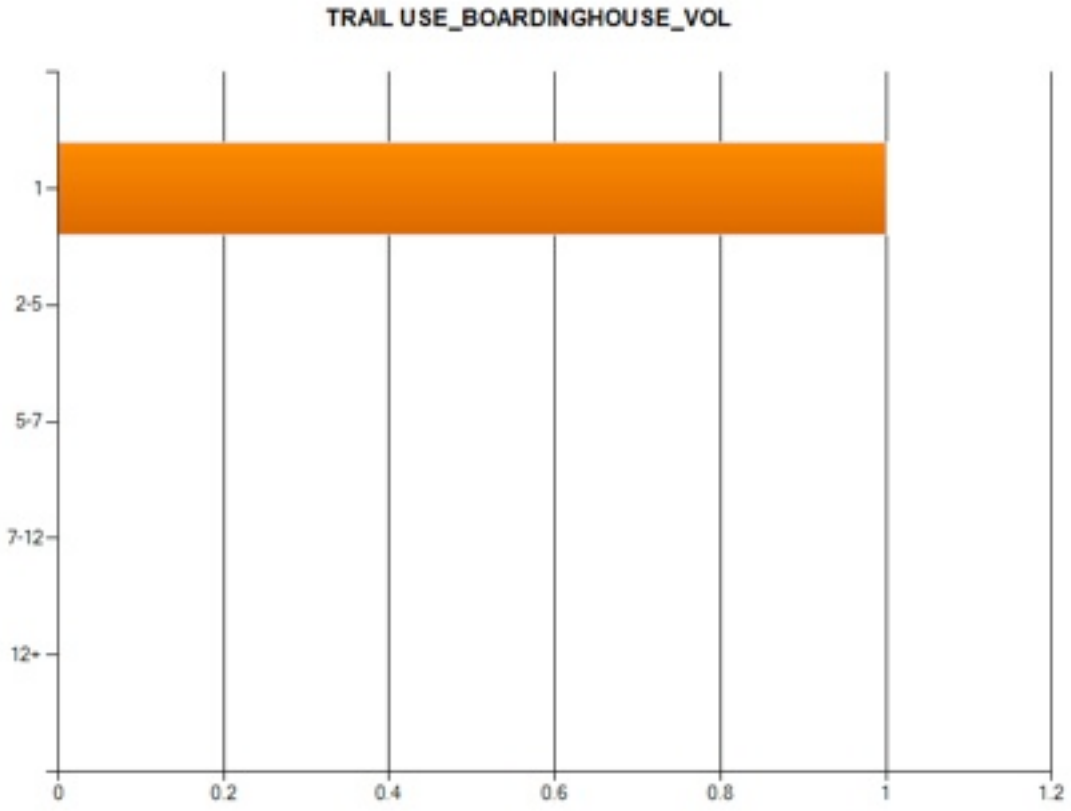
Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs.



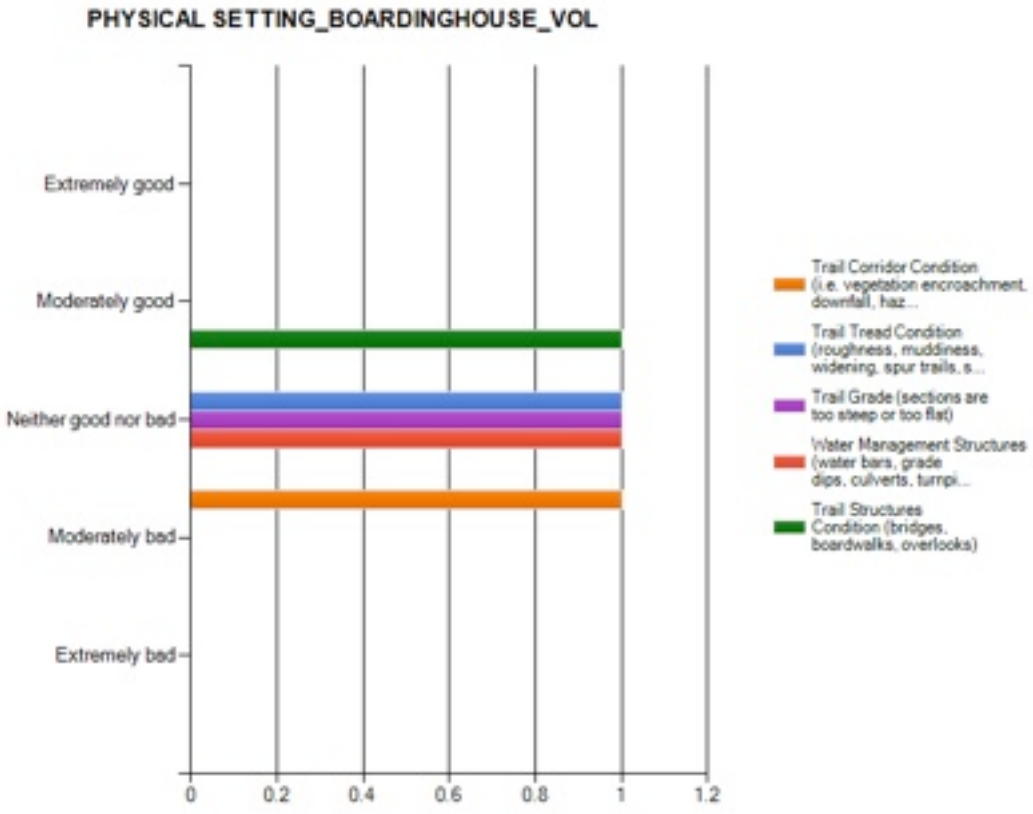

SOCIAL SETTING_BOARDINGHOUSE_USFS
Extremely satisfied
Very satisfied
Moderately satisfied
Slightly satisfied
Not at all satisfied
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
Quality of trail experience
Potential user conflict is minimized by the trail design (appropriate...
Condition of trailhead/trailside facilities (parking, sanitation, map...
Number of Respondents


MANAGERIAL SETTING_BOARDINGHOUSE_USFS
Extremely effective
Very effective
Moderately effective
Slightly effective
Not at all effective
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
General maintenance condition (quality, quantity)
Capacity to manage (volunteer and agency access to tools, training, a...
Meeting current and/or projected use
Compatibility with surrounding resources (wildlife resources, water q...
Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers

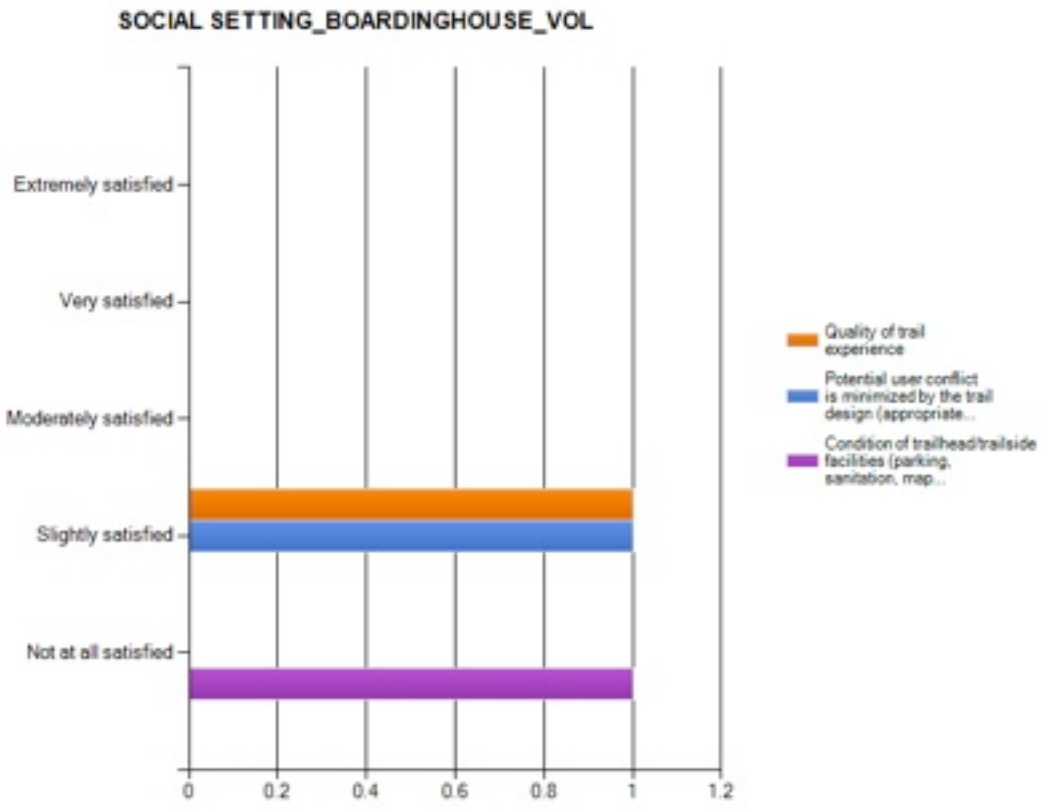


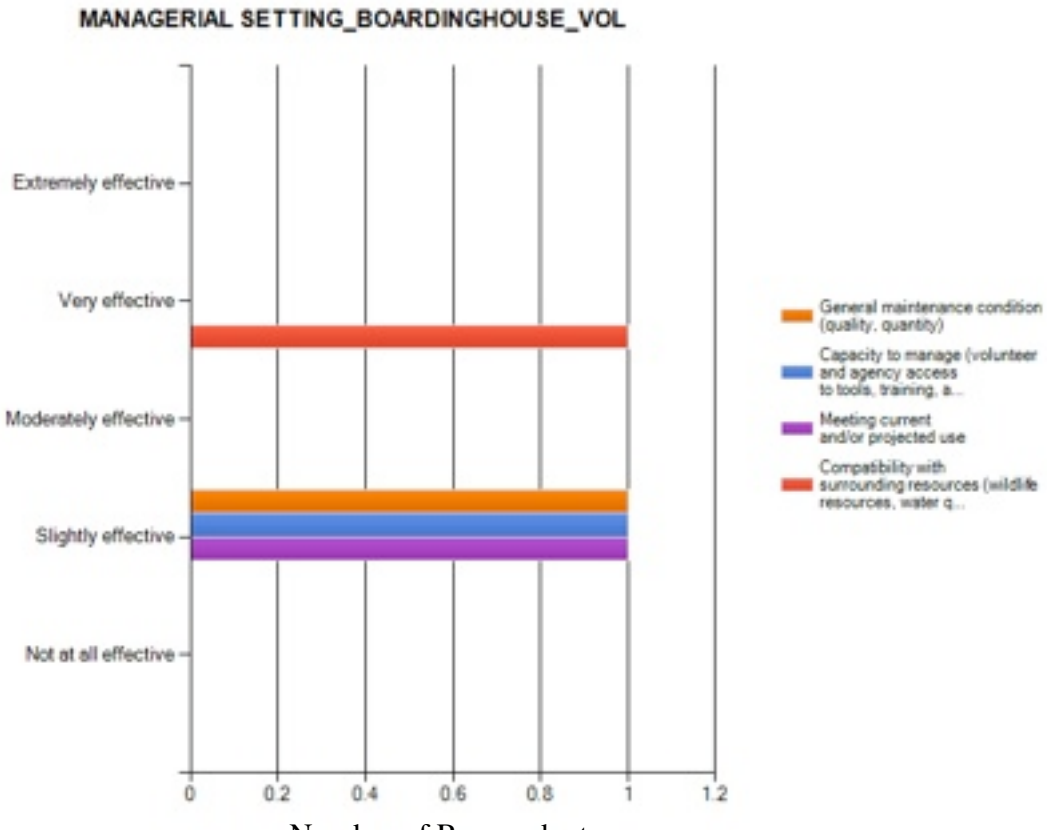
Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers





TRAIL: BURGESS MOUNTAIN

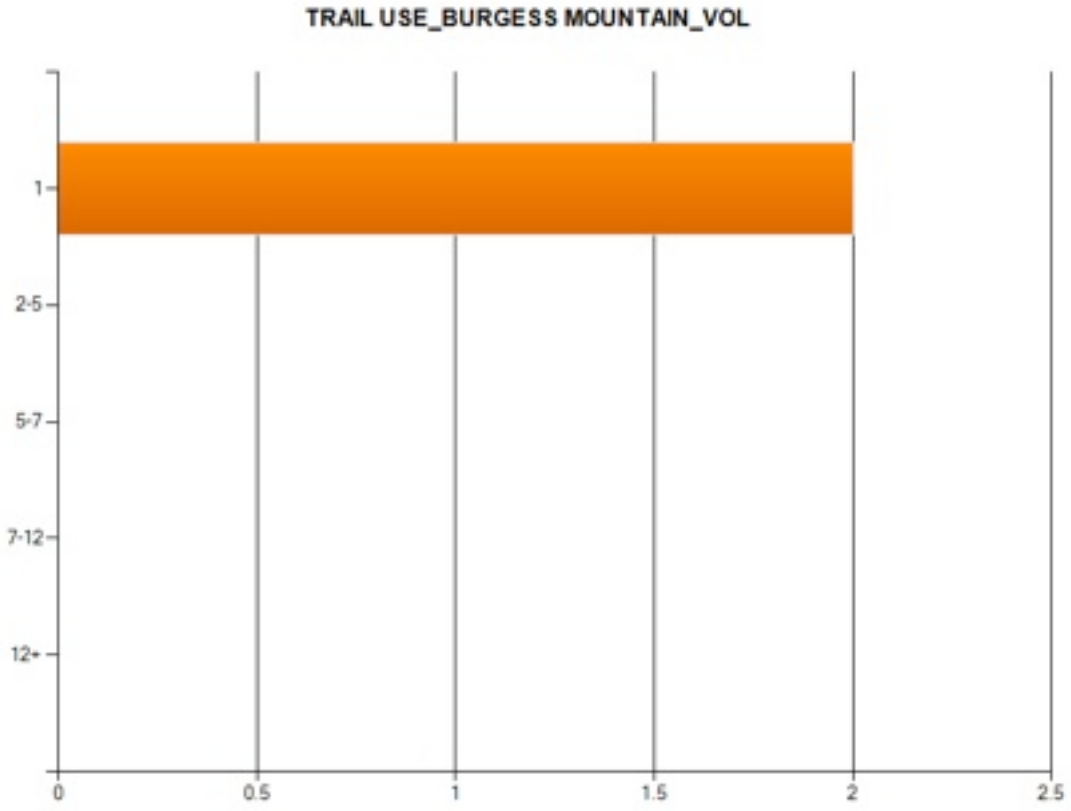
Survey Results: Forest Service

History: Built Pre 1980's, No major maintenance

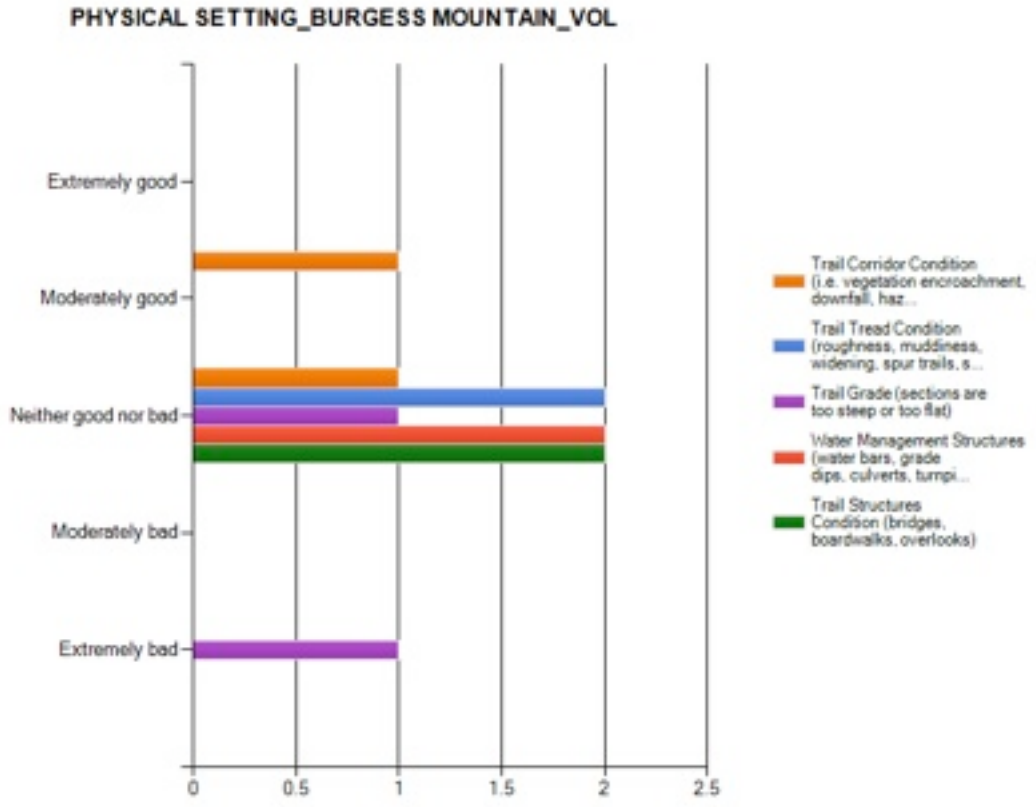
Maintenance Providers: USFS

Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs

Survey Results: Volunteers

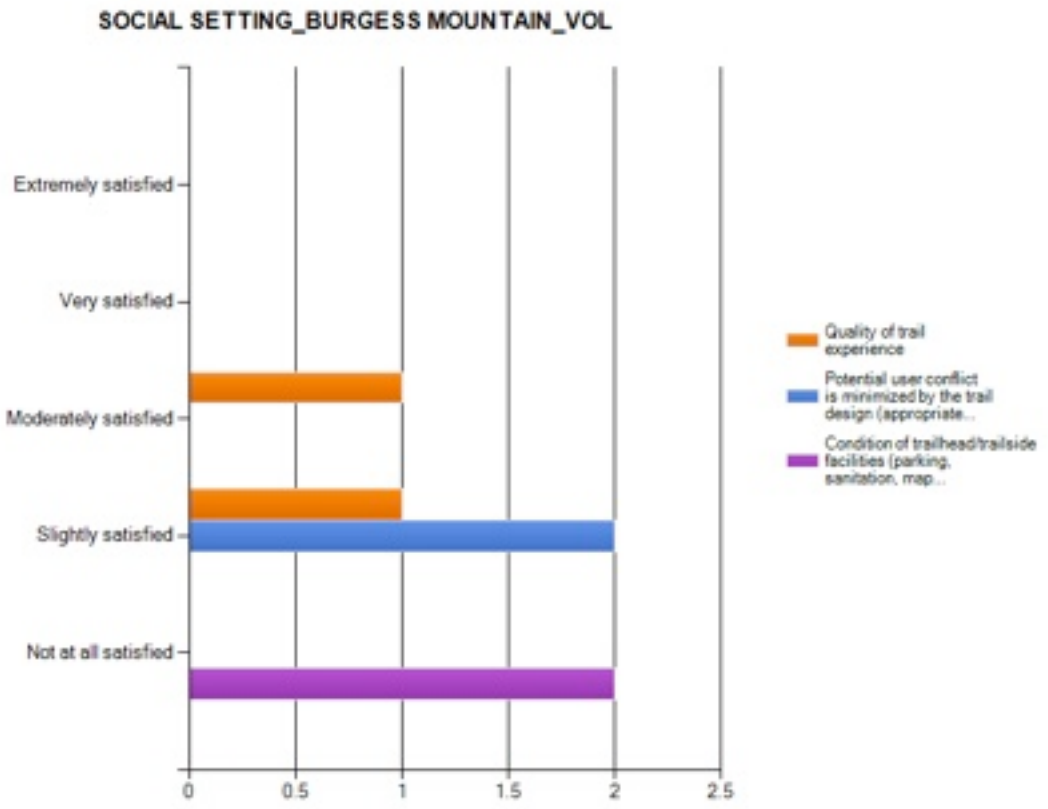


Number of Respondents

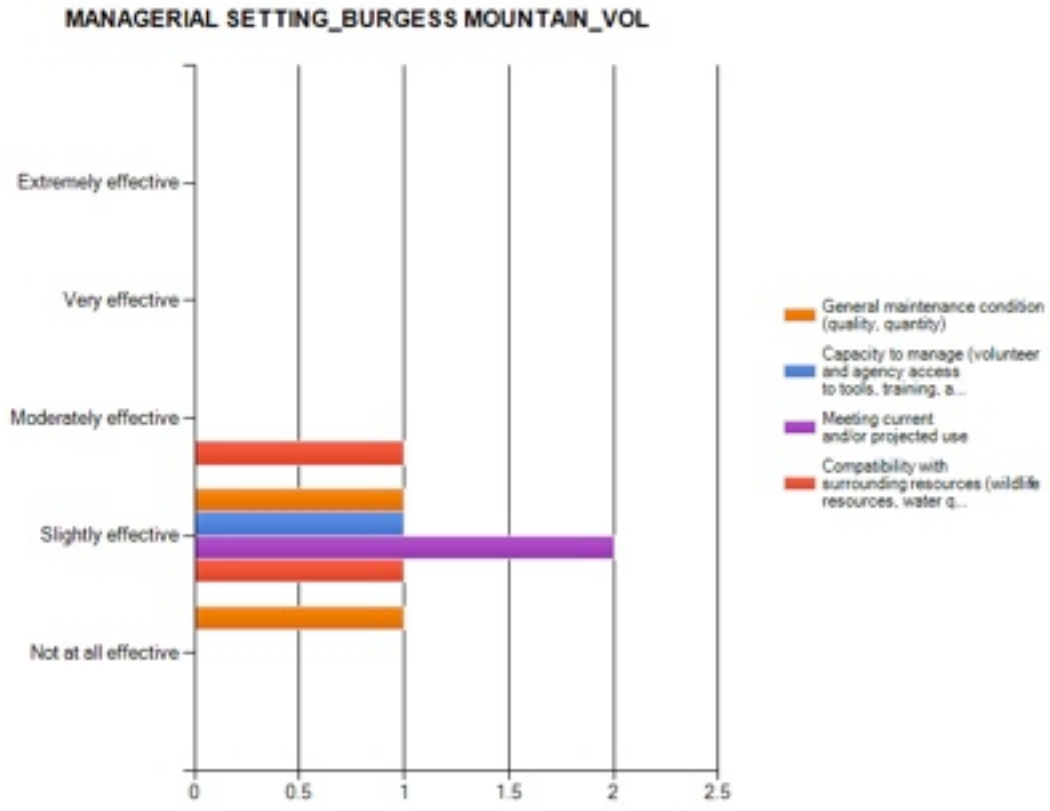


Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers



Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

TRAIL: DOUBLE BRIDGES

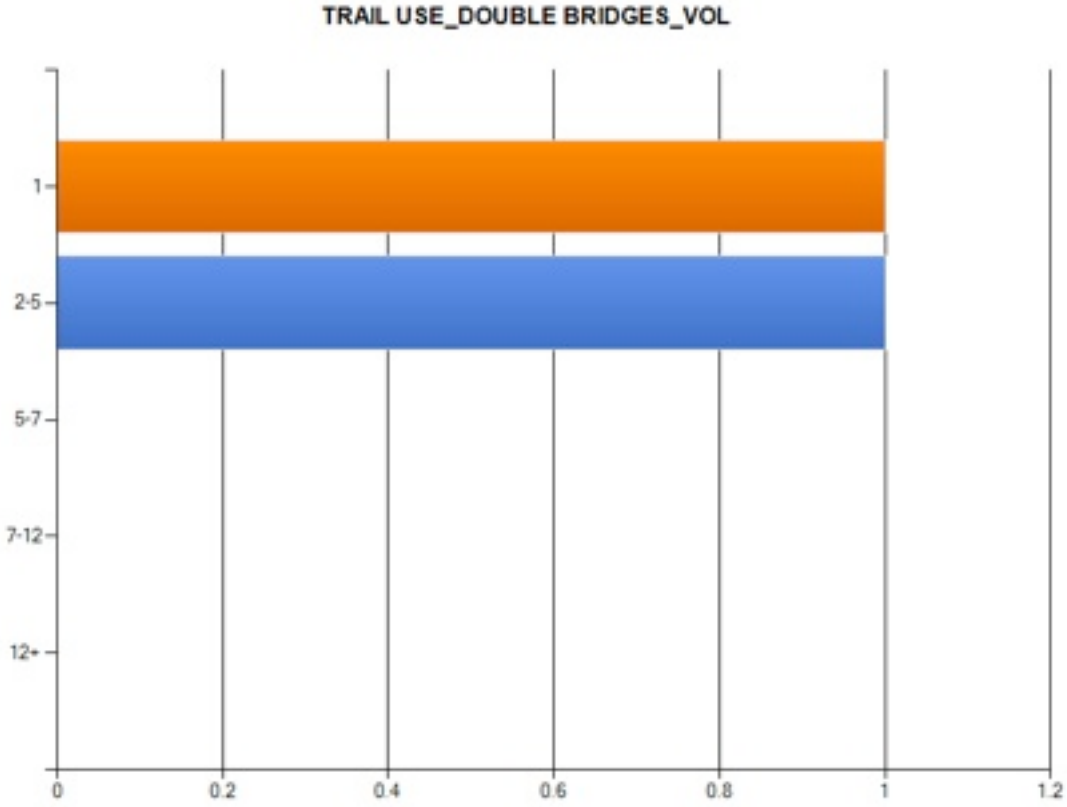
Survey Results: Forest Service

History: Built pre-1980's

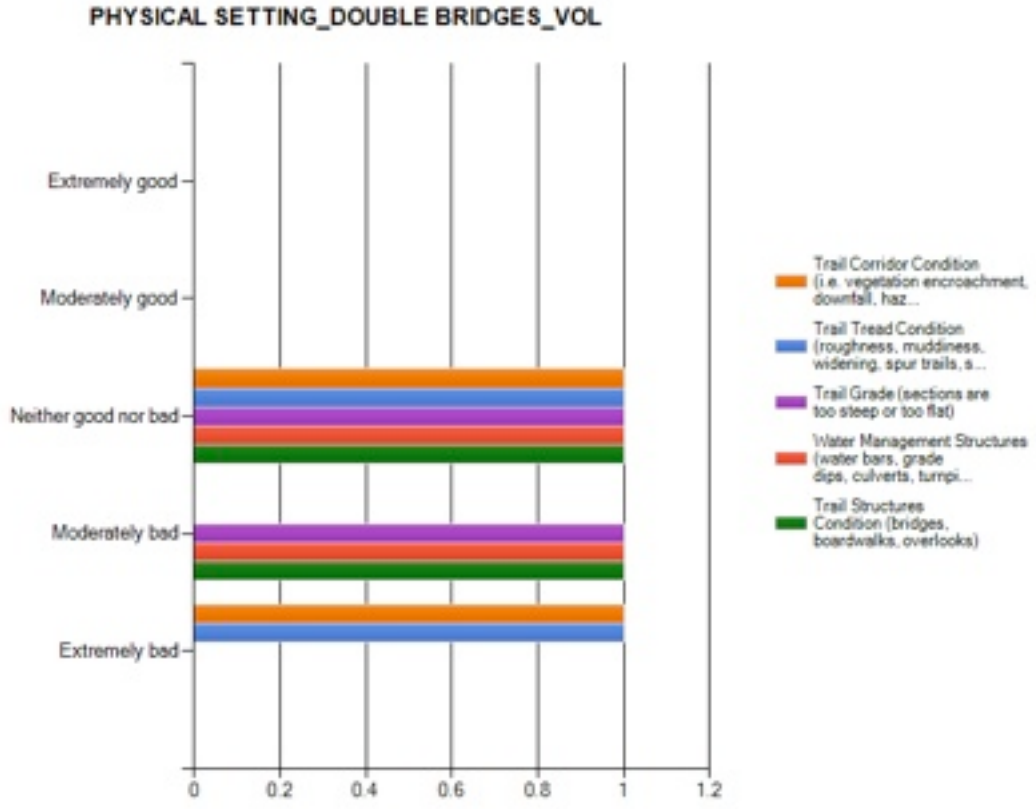
Maintenance Providers: USFS

Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs.

Survey Results: Volunteers

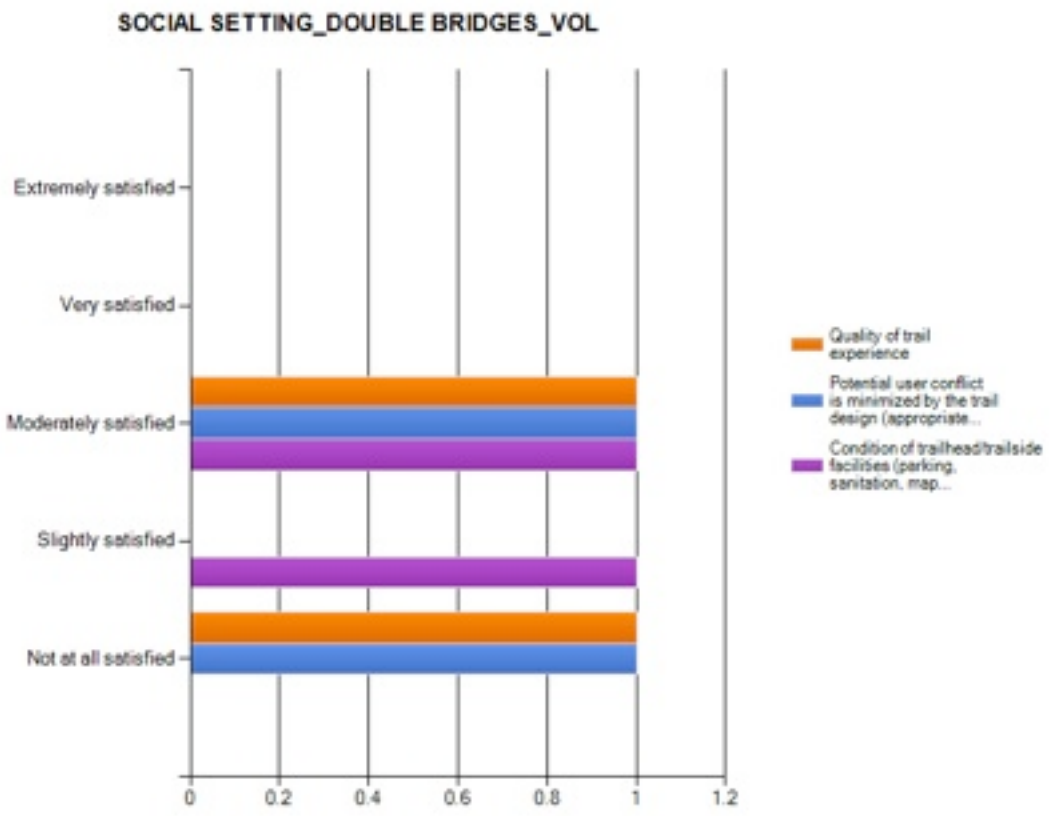


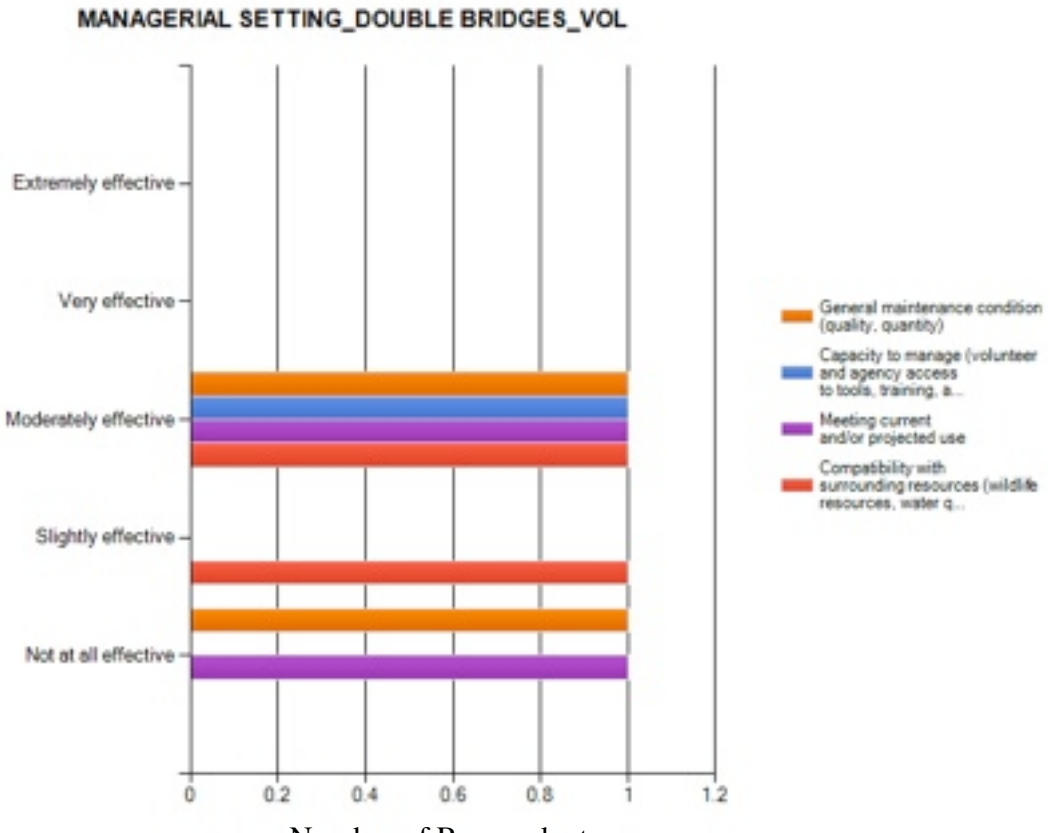
Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers





TRAIL: HITCHITI

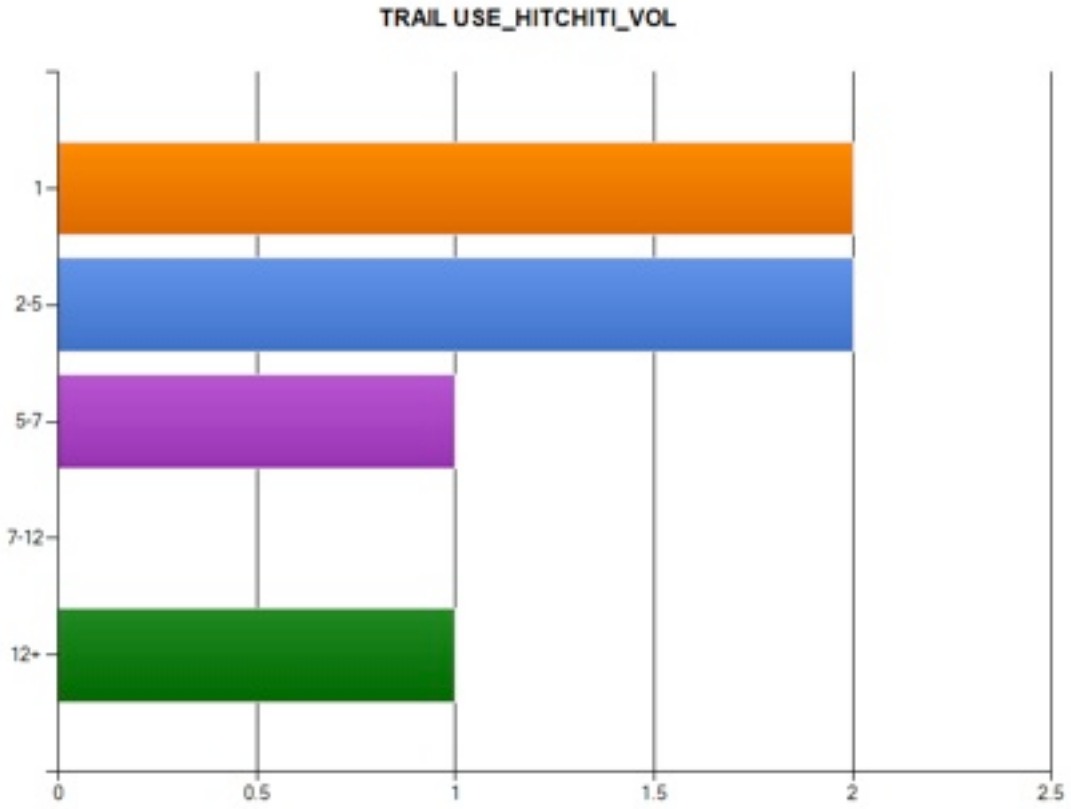
Survey Results: Forest Service

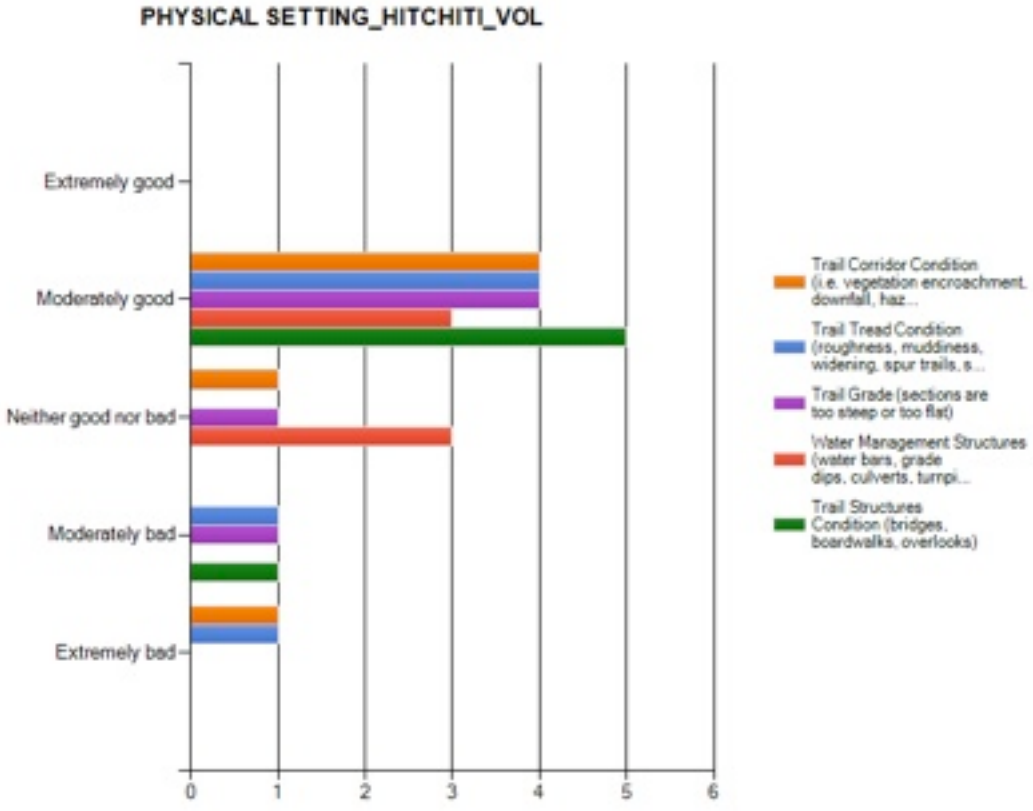
History: Built Pre 1980's

Maintenance Providers: USFS

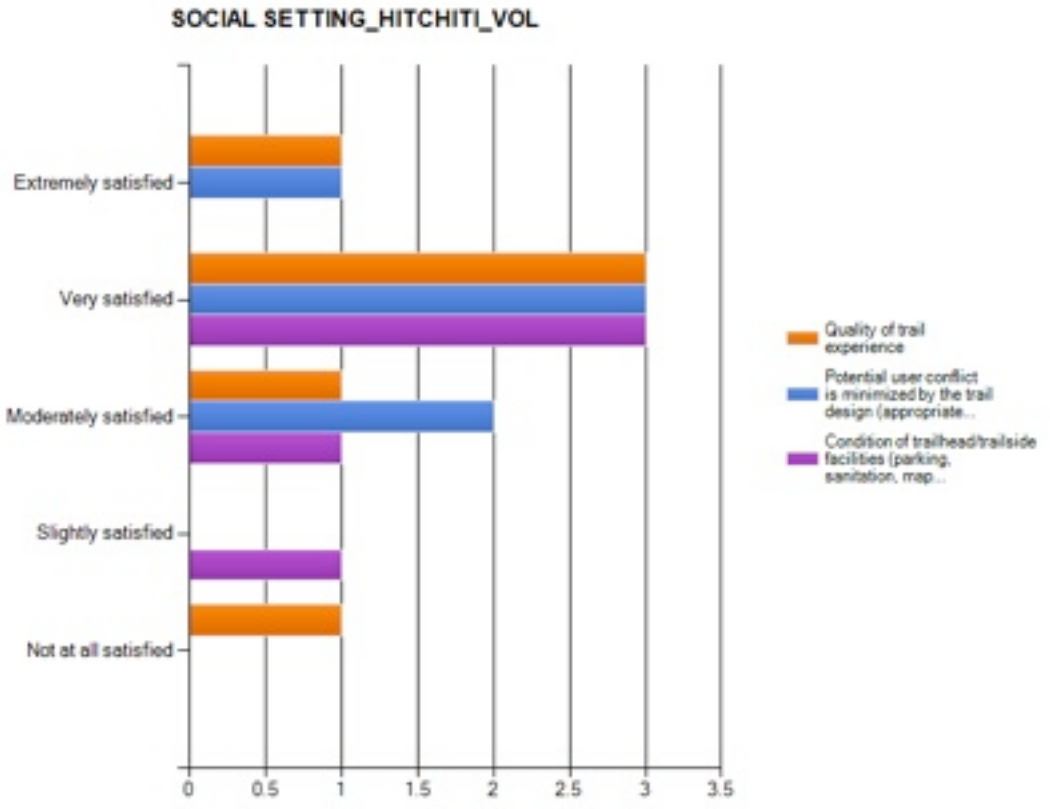
Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs

Survey Results: Volunteers

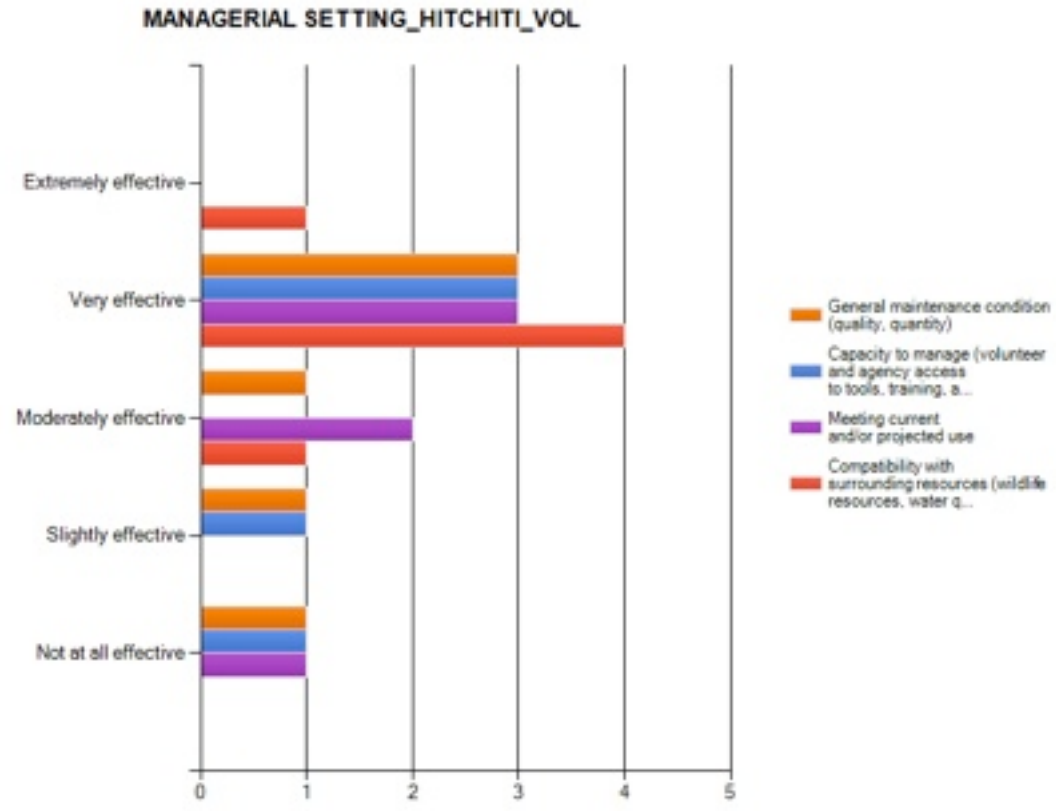




Survey Results: Volunteers



Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Volunteer Group Comments:

Georgia Forest Watch:
History: Friends in Macon told us they helped lay out this trail as part of a Wesleyan College biology class initiative in the 1980s.
Maintenance: The USFS has helped keep the trail open by removing blow downs and southern pine beetle killed trees.
Use: Well loved and popular to locals. This is one of the few good hiking opportunities in the Macon area (Ocmulgee Bluffs horse trail isn't very good for hiking)
Issues: Over-grown in areas. Social paths to fragile granite outcroppings have led to them being trampled. The side path to rocks in the Ocmulgee River is popular for picnics; it is badly eroded and dangerous. The trail goes by lovely rock outcroppings, but is routed through a wetland that is frequently inundated; a reroute is probably needed. Pine beetles destroyed a patch of forest, but FS tree removal did a decent job of clearing it; some deadfalls are too close to the trail and are dangerous, and some block the trail. The last 1/3 of the trail is simply on a gated gravel road, which is not pleasant. The creek crossing is dangerous since the culvert washed away.

TRAIL: HITCHITI LOOP

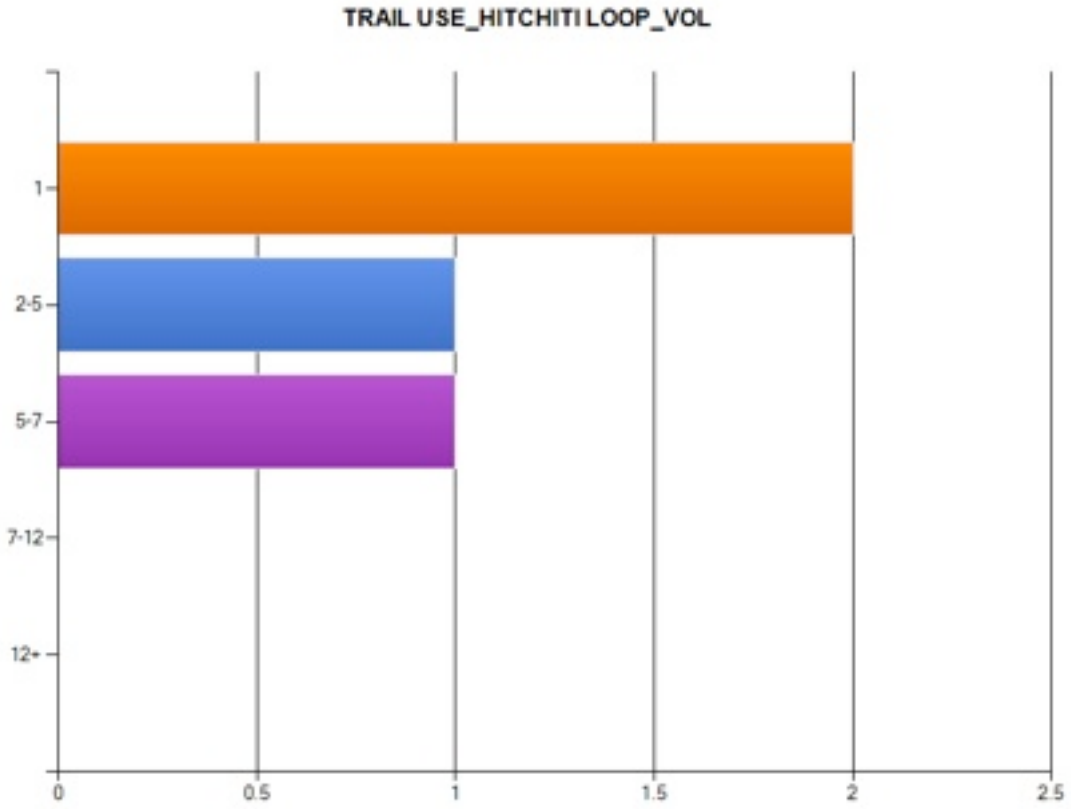
Survey Results: Forest Service

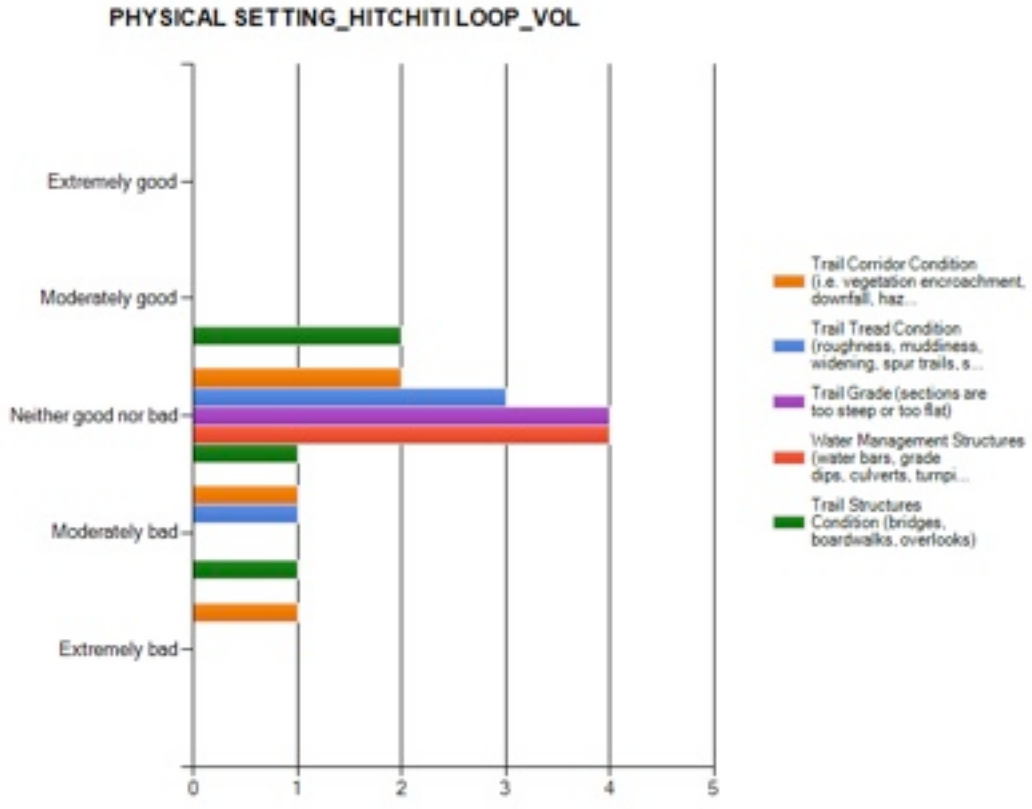
History: Built pre-1980's

Maintenance Providers: USFS

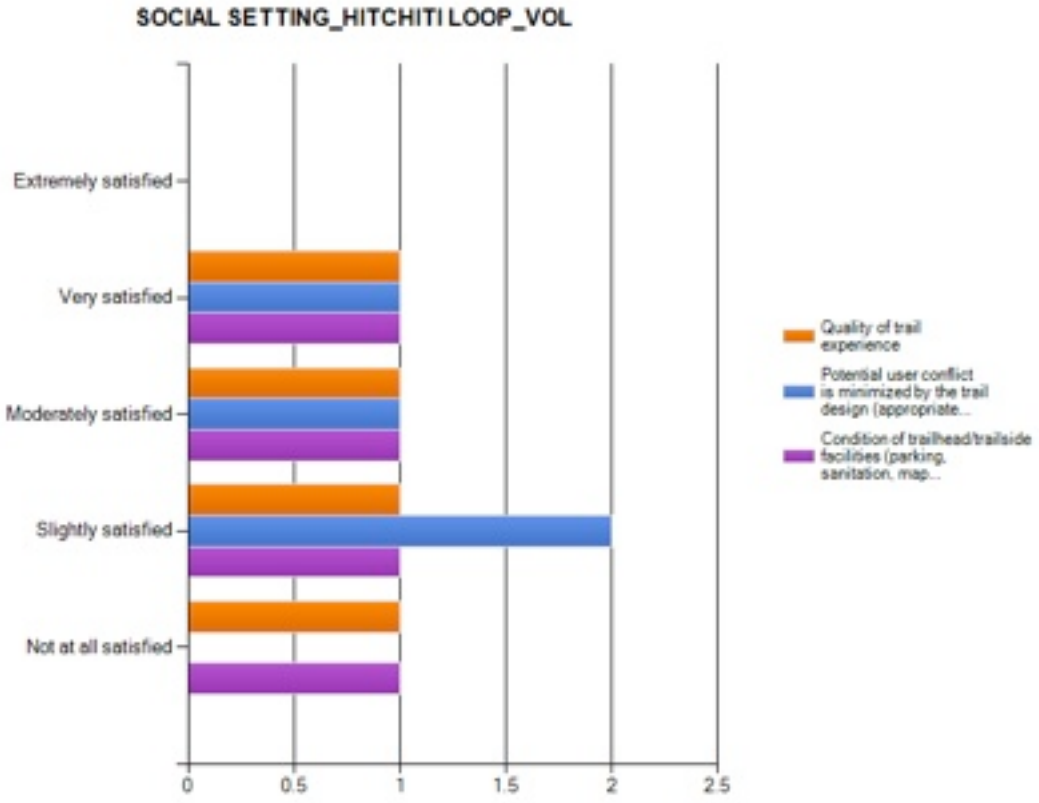
Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs.

Survey Results: Volunteers

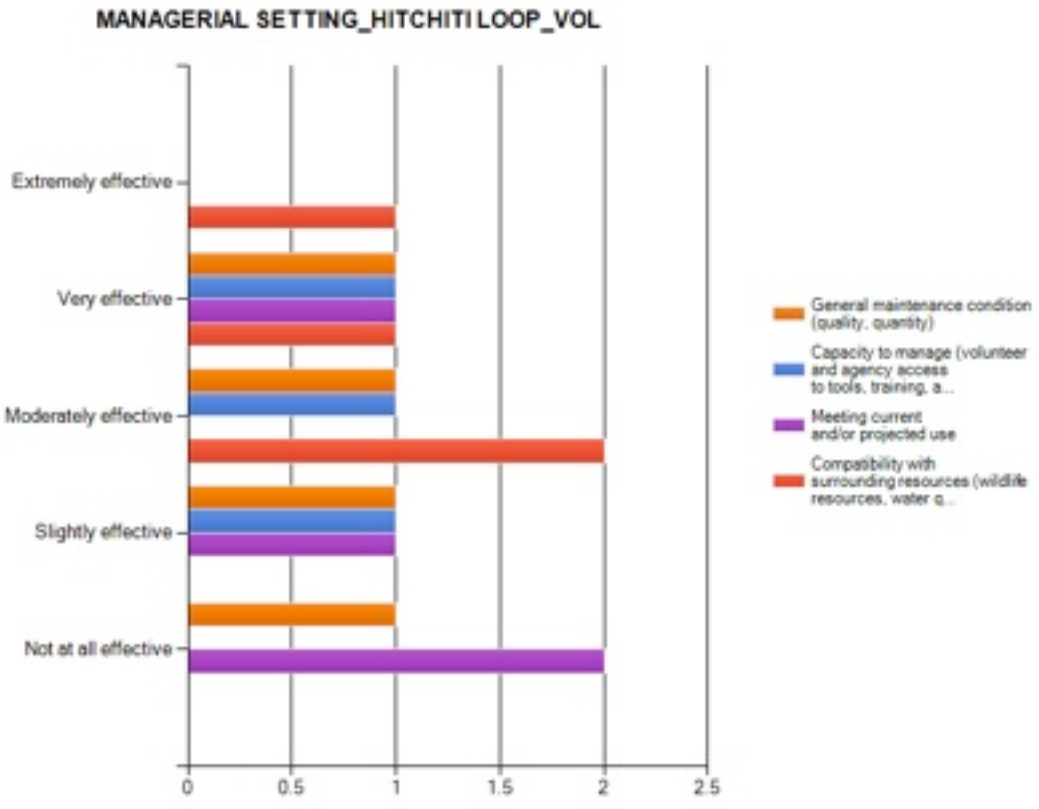




Survey Results: Volunteers



Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Volunteer Group Comments:

Georgia Forest Watch:
History: None provided
Maintenance: None provided
Use: Poorly used
Issues: Very short and doesn't go anywhere interesting. The main trail is far nicer. Probably should be abandoned.

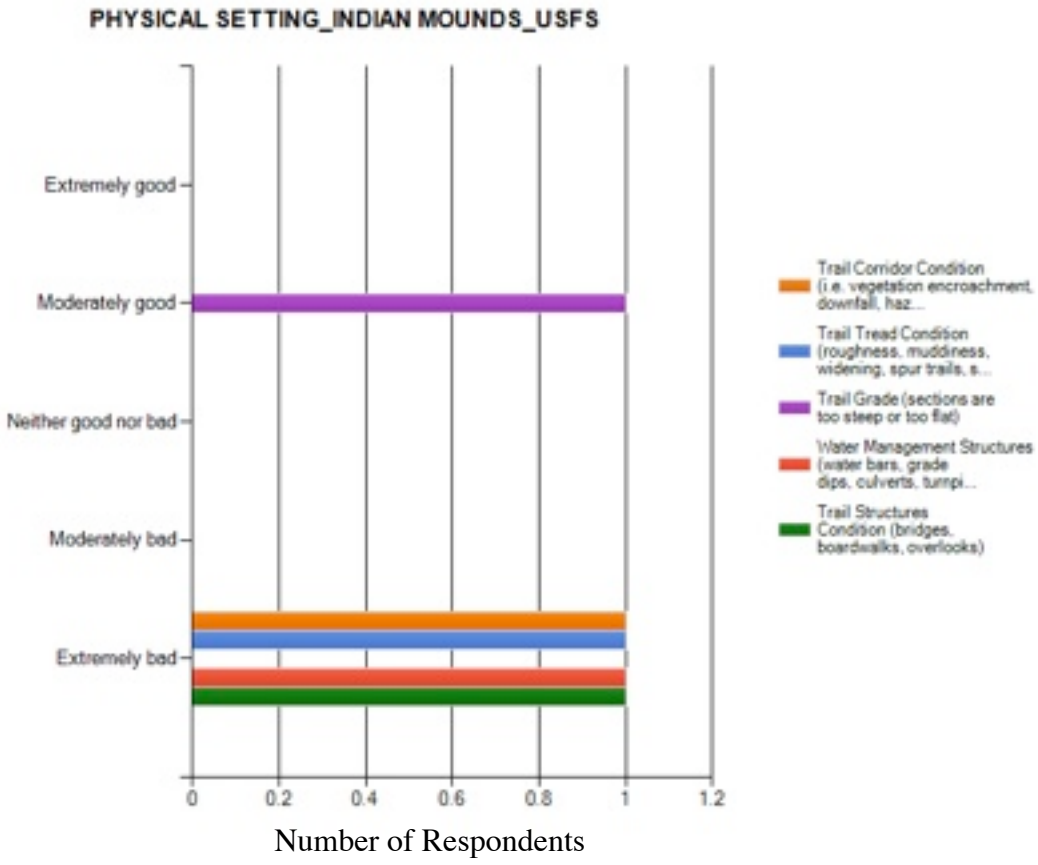
TRAIL: INDIAN MOUNDS

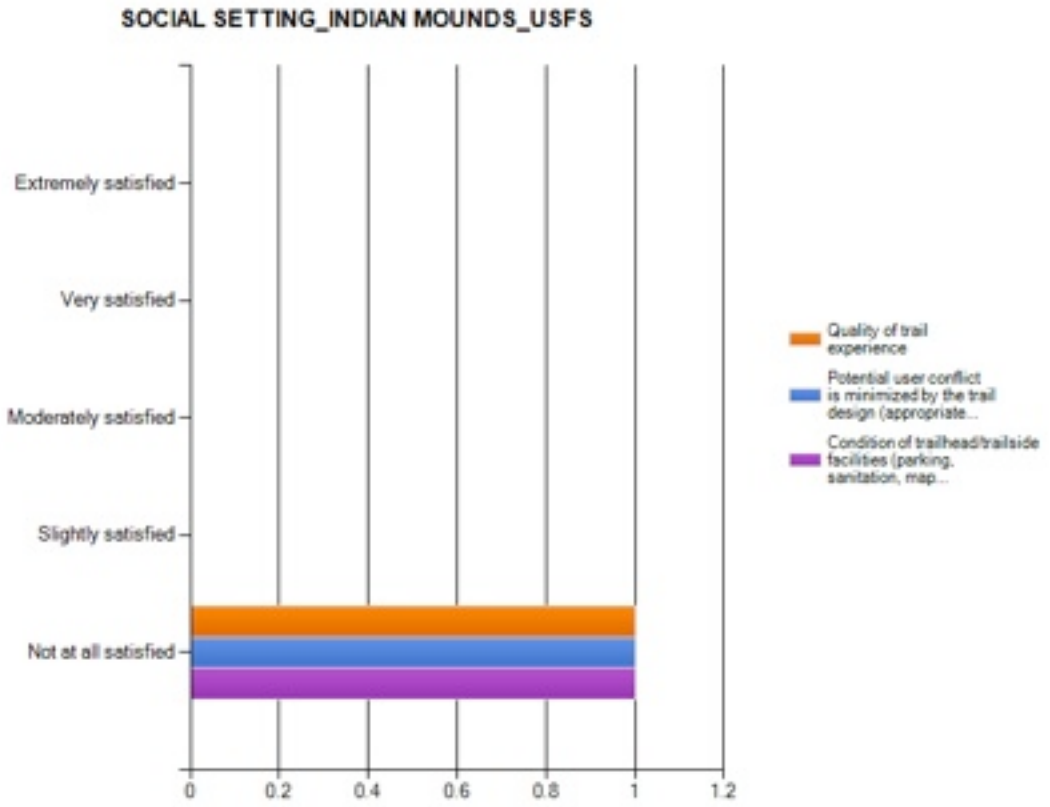
Survey Results: Forest Service

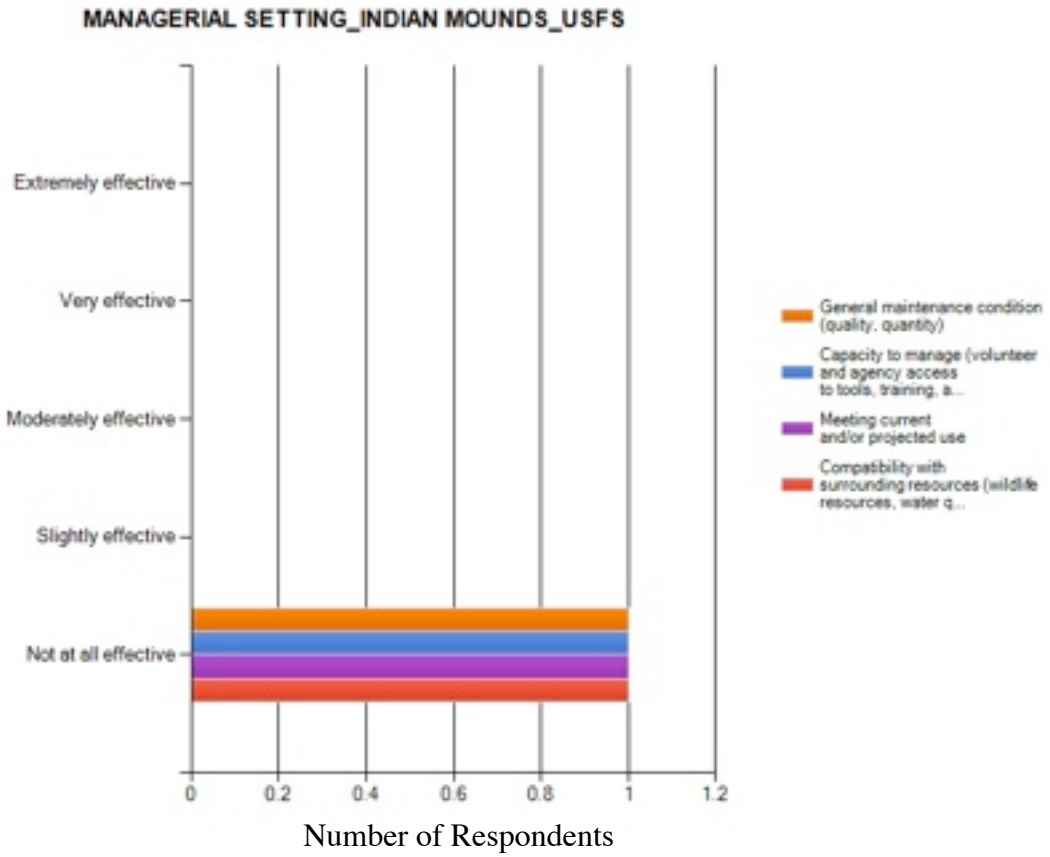
History: Built pre-1980s. Trail is officially closed.

Maintenance Providers: USFS, Friends of Scull Shoals

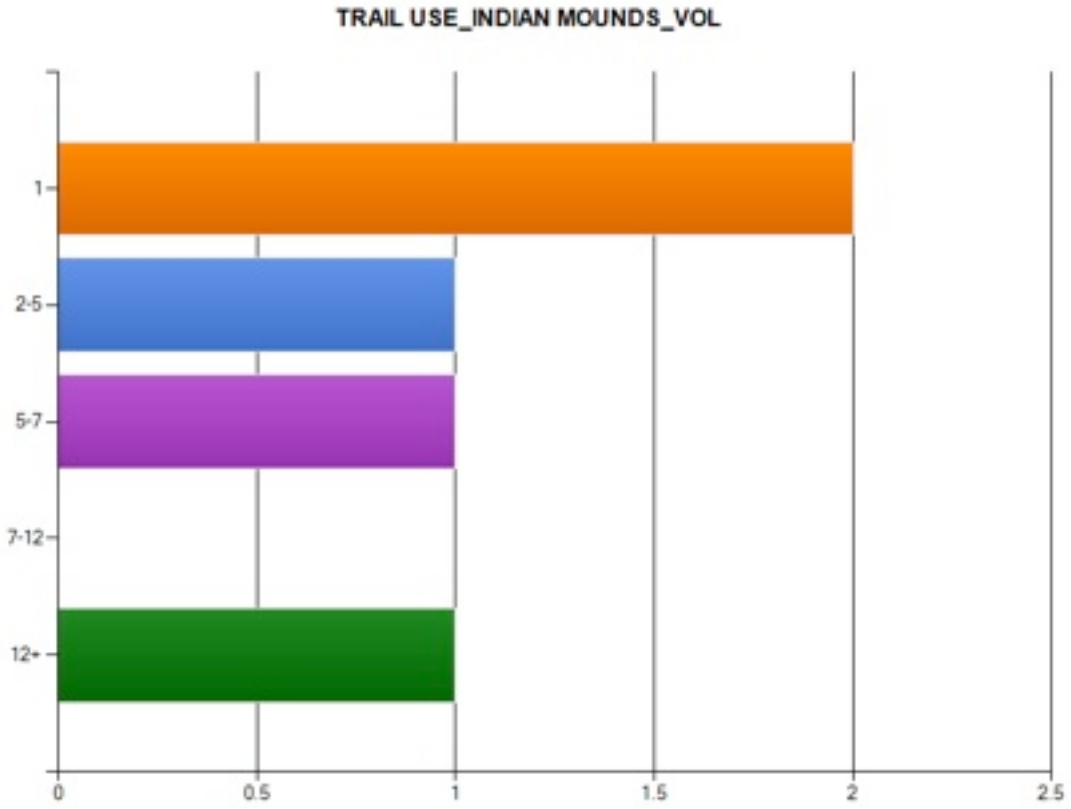
Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail is closed because the proximity to sensitive resources. Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time.

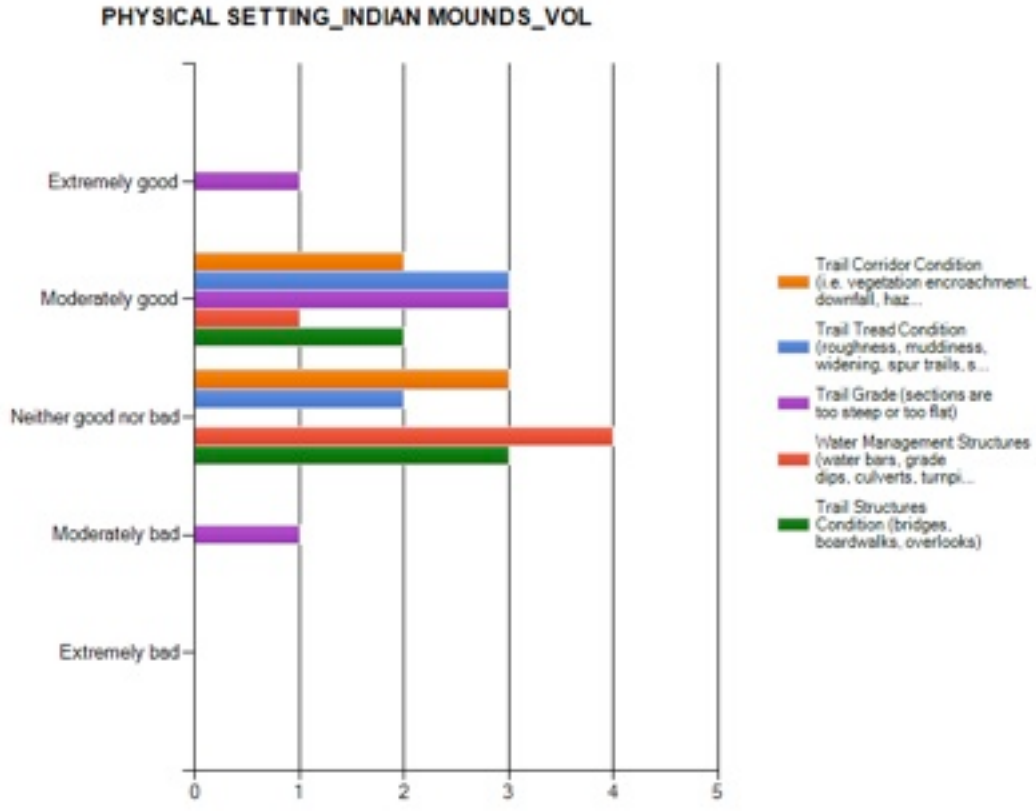



SOCIAL SETTING_INDIAN MOUNDS_USFS
Extremely satisfied
Very satisfied
Moderately satisfied
Slightly satisfied
Not at all satisfied
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
1.2
Quality of trail experience
Potential user conflict is minimized by the trail design (appropriate...
Condition of trailhead/trailside facilities (parking, sanitation, map...
Number of Respondents

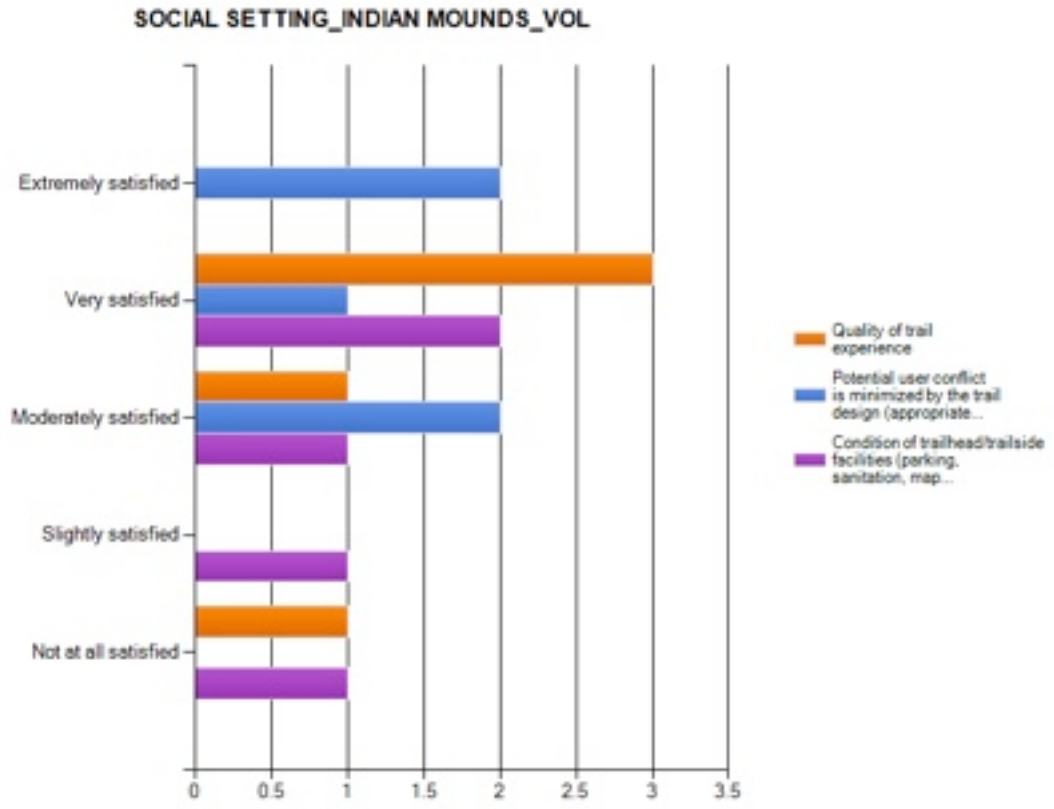

MANAGERIAL SETTING_INDIAN MOUNDS_USFS
Extremely effective
Very effective
Moderately effective
Slightly effective
Not at all effective
0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1
1.2
General maintenance condition (quality, quantity)
Capacity to manage (volunteer and agency access to tools, training, a...
Meeting current and/or projected use
Compatibility with surrounding resources (wildlife resources, water q...
Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers

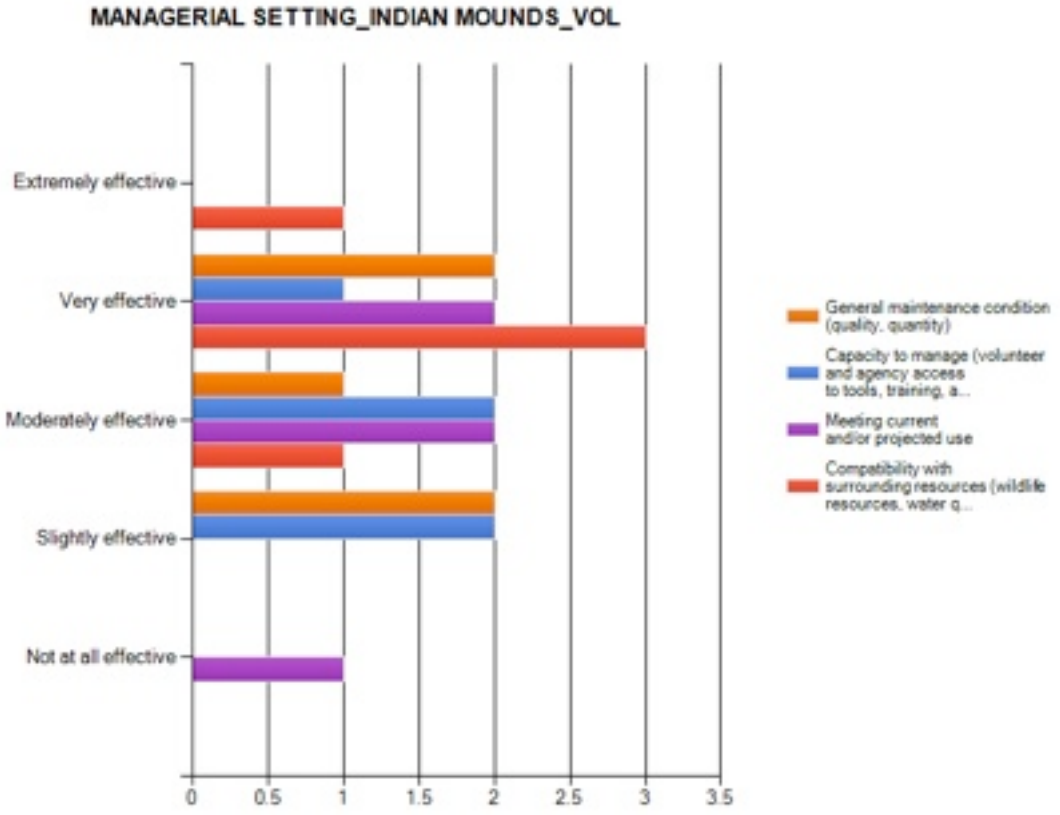




Survey Results: Volunteers



Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Volunteer Group Comments:

Georgia Forest Watch:
History: None provided
Maintenance: None provided
Use: Not well known or used, in good shape.
Issues: None provided

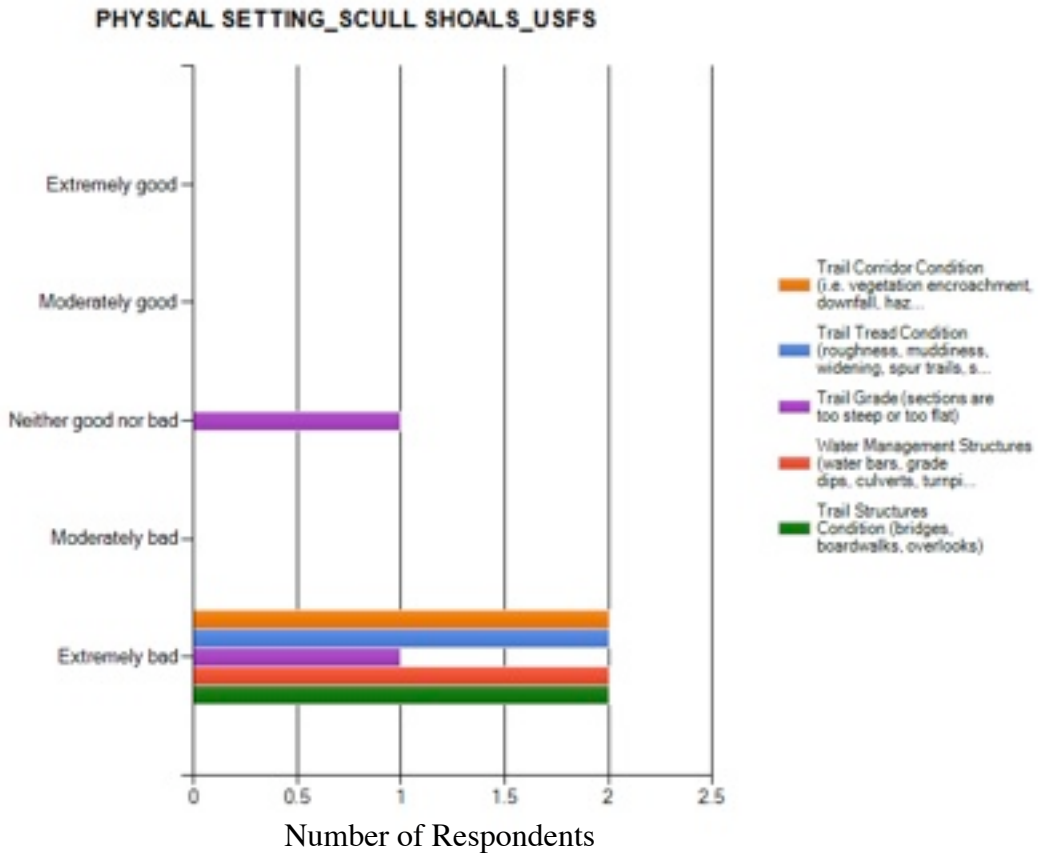
TRAIL: SCULL SHOALS

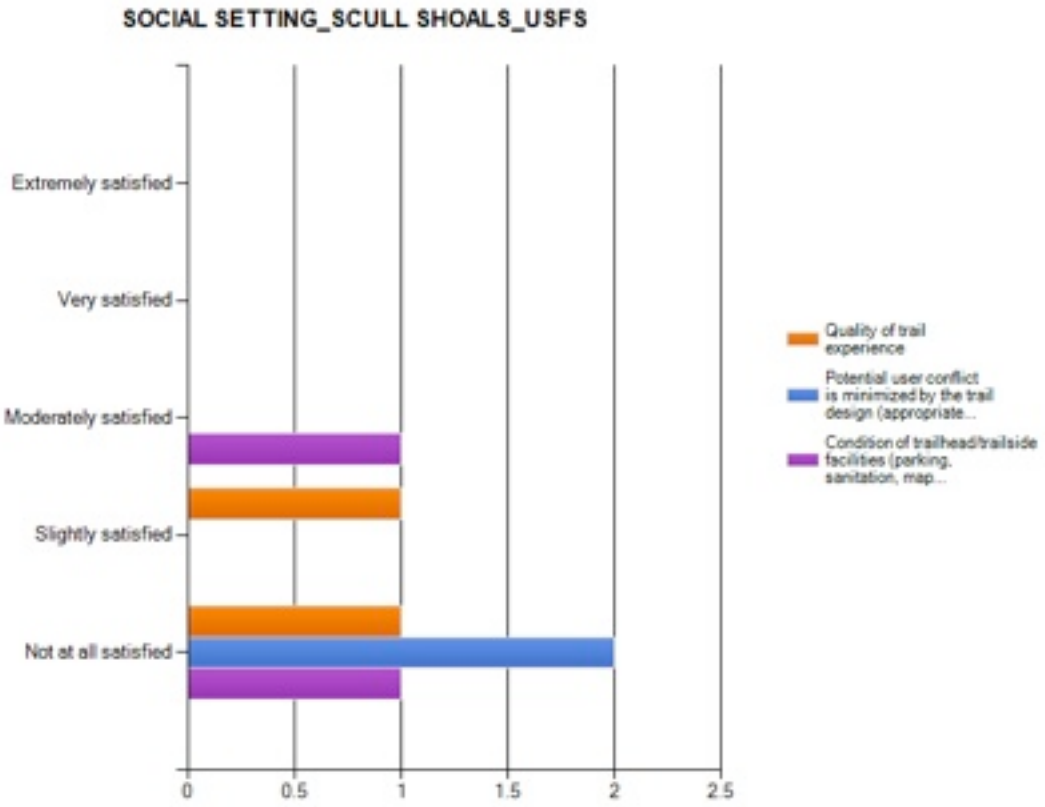
Survey Results: Forest Service

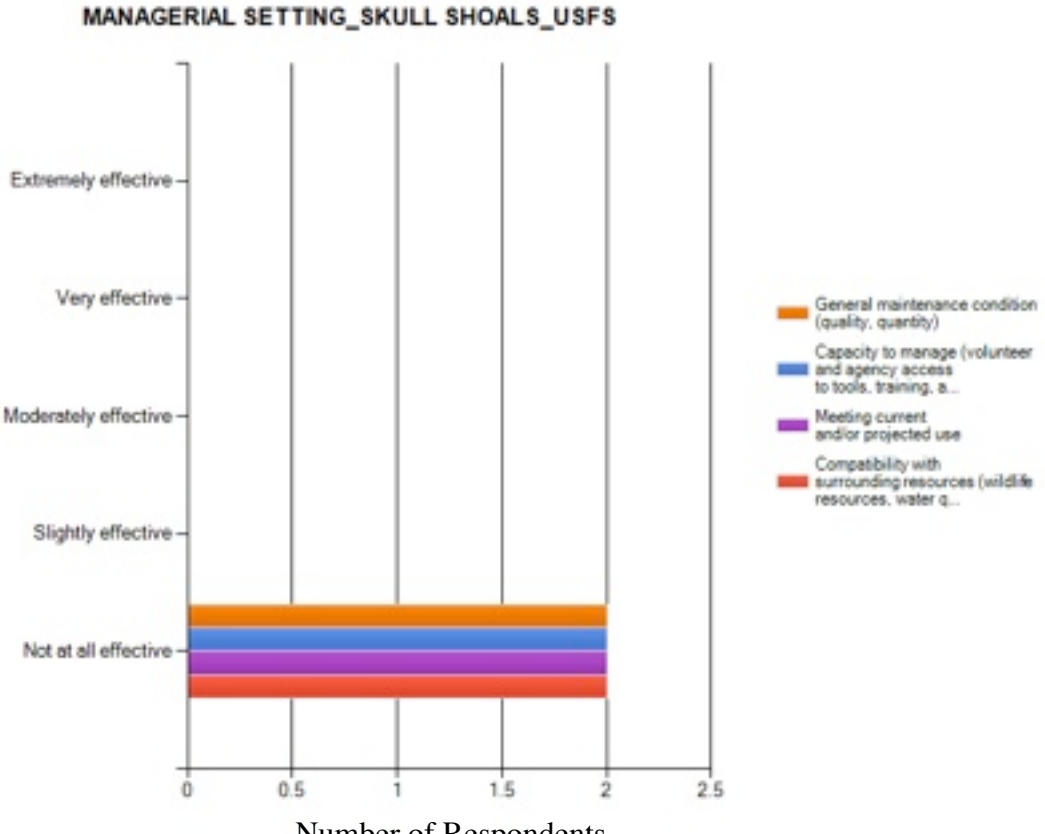
History: Built Pre 1980's

Maintenance Providers: USFS

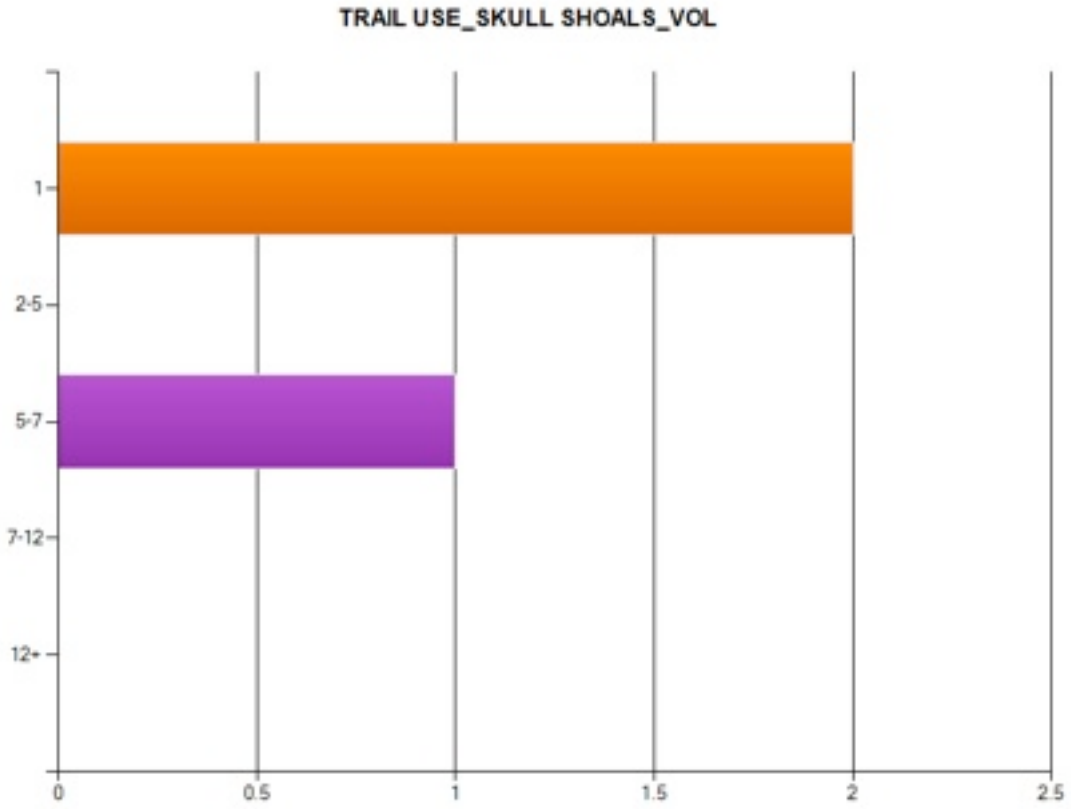
Reasons Included In Assessment: Trail receives little maintenance and has no volunteer groups associated with it at this time. Assessment may help determine maintenance needs.

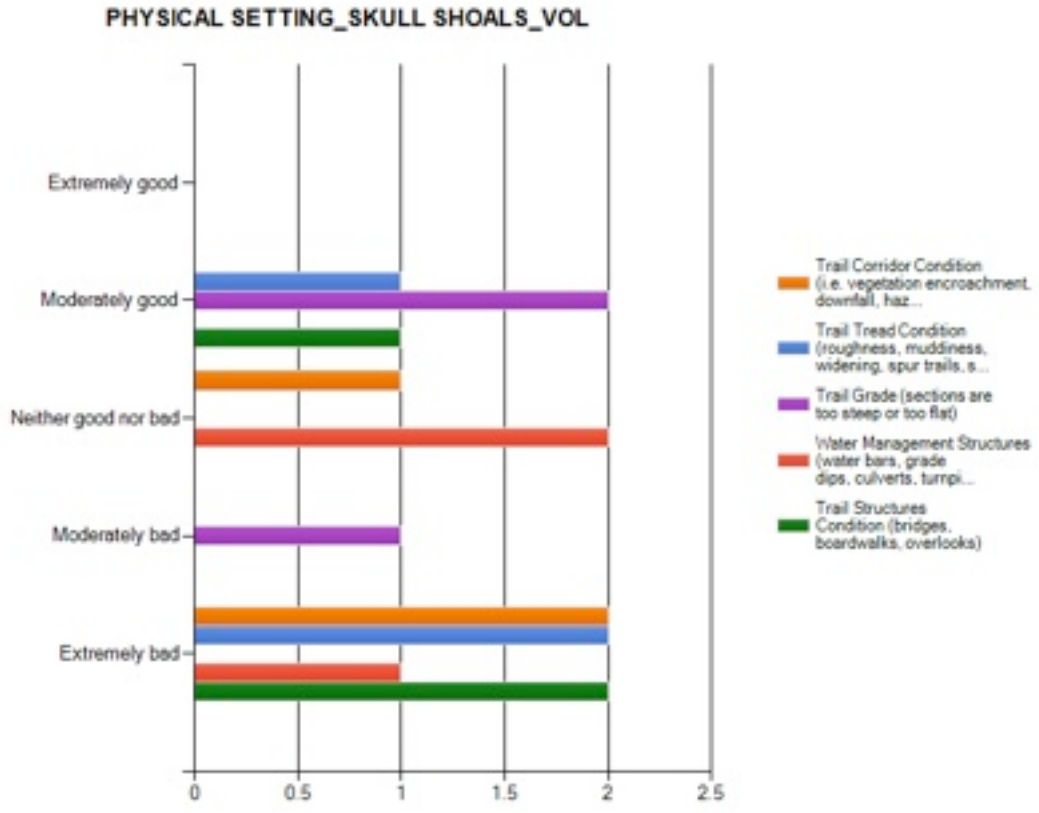



SOCIAL SETTING_SCULL SHOALS_USFS
Extremely satisfied
Very satisfied
Moderately satisfied
Slightly satisfied
Not at all satisfied
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
Quality of trail experience
Potential user conflict is minimized by the trail design (appropriate...
Condition of trailhead/trailside facilities (parking, sanitation, map...
Number of Respondents

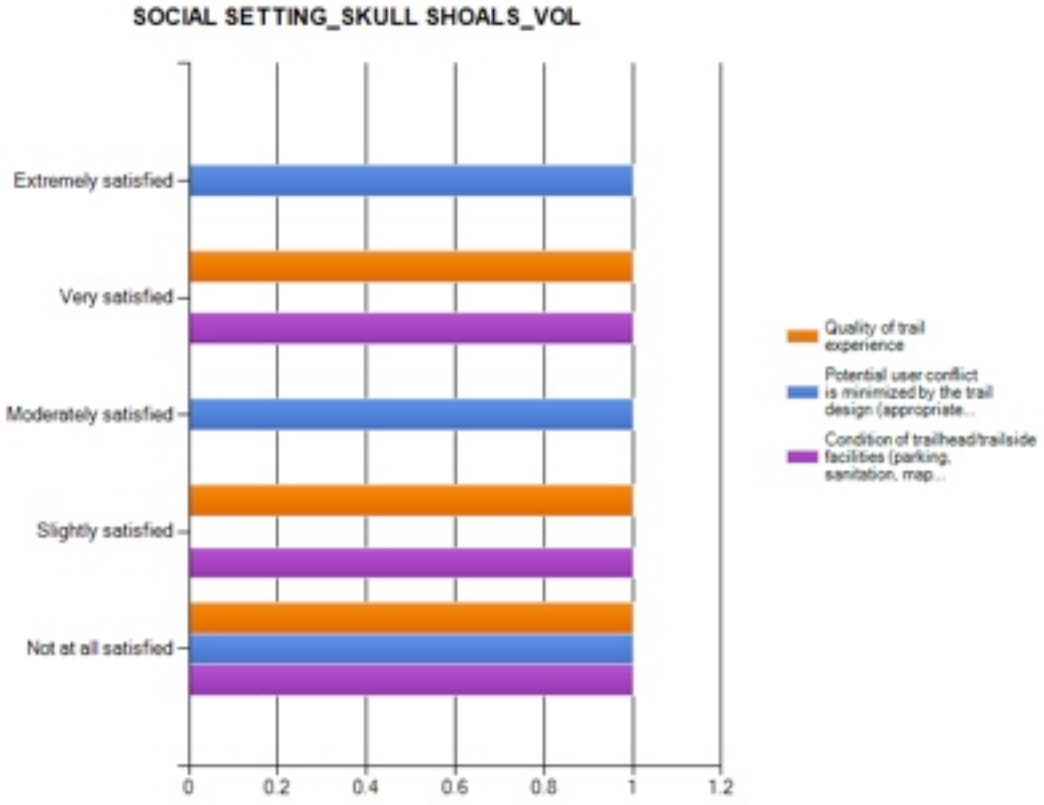

MANAGERIAL SETTING_SKULL SHOALS_USFS
Extremely effective
Very effective
Moderately effective
Slightly effective
Not at all effective
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
General maintenance condition (quality, quantity)
Capacity to manage (volunteer and agency access to tools, training, a...
Meeting current and/or projected use
Compatibility with surrounding resources (wildlife resources, water q...
Number of Respondents

Survey Results: Volunteers

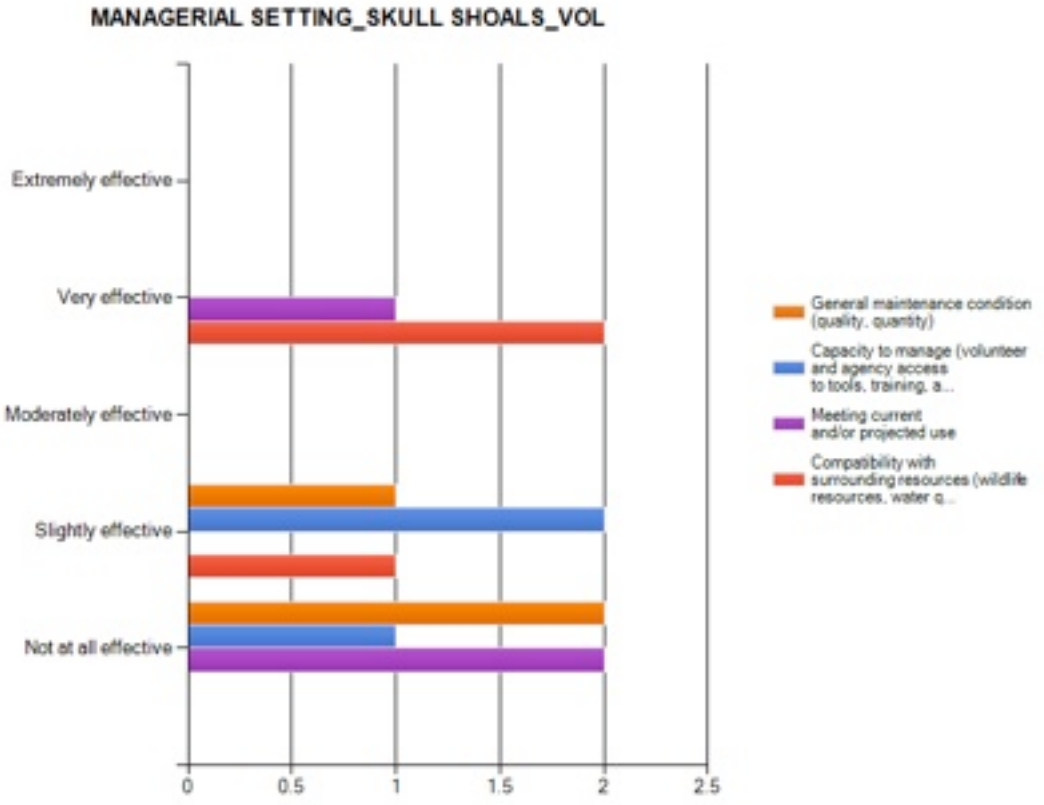




Survey Results: Volunteers



Number of Respondents



Number of Respondents

Volunteer Group Comments:

Georgia Forest Watch:
History: Date to at least 1995
Maintenance: While trails in Scull Shoals are in generally poor condition, perhaps the Friends of Scull Shoals maintains some portions or trails in and near this area?
Use: None provided
Issues: Better signage, reroutes, increased maintenance.